

SKETCH
OF THE
CHARACTER OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE *Fredericks IV*
King of
PRINCE OF DENMARK.
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To which is added,
A SHORT REVIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE
OF
LITERATURE AND THE POLITE ARTS
IN THAT COUNTRY.

INTERSPERSED WITH ANECDOTES.

IN FOUR LETTERS, BY A GENTLEMAN LONG RESIDENT IN COPEN-
HAGEN TO HIS FRIEND IN LONDON.

On life, on morals be thy thought employ'd,
Leave to the schools the atoms and their void.

RAMBLER.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE eyes of Europe having been of late fixed on Denmark, it is natural to suppose, that every Englishman in particular should interest himself in whatever concerns that country. Her situation, as if intended by nature to hold the balance of the North, and to become a formidable naval power, is intitled to the deepest consideration ; her connections too with this kingdom, at a former period, ought to render Denmark still dear to Great Britain, and to fill every well-wisher to the prosperity of both with a wish, that the pledge of that union, the Prince Royal

of Denmark, may render himself worthy of his ancestry, and realize those hopes, which the dawn of manhood inspired.— These considerations gave birth to the following correspondence, in which information is principally aimed at. The writer did not wish to extend himself on that subject; he meant this only as a supplement to the account which his Serene Highness the Prince of Hesse Cassel has given of his royal son-in-law, in his *Memoirs of the Danish Campaign in Sweden, in 1788*, a work of great impartiality and philanthropy. In fine, whatever has been advanced in the following imperfect sketches, is founded on facts, and will bear in that respect the strictest examination.

LETTER

LETTER I.

DEAR SIR,

MY long residence in Copenhagen enables me in a degree to gratify your request, which I shall not protract by any apology.

The character of His Royal Highness the Prince of Denmark, in whatever light it may be viewed, is pleasing and interesting. His love for his country is equalled only by that affection and respect, which he entertains, and which on all occasions he evinces for his father—a Prince, who has too much sense and philanthropy, to wish for any power, but that which may enable him to promote the peace and prosperity of his fellow-citizens, and too much wis-

dom, though young in years, to look upon those as his friends who would make their court to him, by holding out those flattering but illusive images of greatness, by which Princes are too often dazzled, and led to invade the rights of men, which it was originally intended they should guard.

His Royal Highness has given the most unequivocal proofs of his attachment to his country and his sovereign: he has stood forward more than once, in defence of the first blessing, that a nation can boast—the LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

Voltaire's Épître au Roi de Dannemarc will never be forgotten, in which that sovereign enemy to tyranny and superstition congratulates his Danish Majesty, on being the first Prince in Europe, (our own excepted only) who had a such degree of common sense, as to break those numerous fetters, which crippled and weighed down the press, through which truth and learning naturally sought the light. Fear, envy, old preju-

dices, &c. mustered their forces, but in vain; and we live to see them die away before the refulgent beams of the former, like darkness before the dawn of day.

In Denmark, this blow has proved fatal to many favourite prejudices, superstitious tenets, and above all, to the goddess, whose head is encircled with lazy fogs, and who has long ruled with soporific sway. At the time the young Prince received his fathers orders to assist him in bearing the burden of the state, public affairs wore a more favourable aspect, than perhaps, at any other period, at least for some time past. An application was made to him to restore the CENSURE, in order that nothing might be printed, which had not passed the ordeal of the university. Those, who preferred this request, had address enough to insinuate, that His Royal Highness himself had been treated with a freedom, beyond what he ought, in some pamphlets, which if passed over in silence, might give birth to consequences the most alarming. His High-

ness listened to these artful suggestions with attention peculiar to himself, and at the end of which, he declared, "That sorry as he was, that any part of his conduct should be viewed through a medium at once so unfavourable; and yet, perhaps, in some respects just, as all men were subject to err; that he felt himself more indebted to those who had courage to point out his failings, than to those friends, whose partiality induced them to varnish, or throw them into shade: and that in future he should endeavour, to act in such a manner, as to leave as little cause of complaint, as possible;" and he assured the gentlemen before they parted from him, that it was so far from his intention to advise his father to restrain the liberty of the press, that he should be the first on any motion regularly made for that purpose to stand forward, to maintain and support that law, which his father had promulged in favour of it: as he was persuaded, with his Royal Parent, that it added to the happiness of the subject. Let any one,

added the Prince, who may conceive himself injured in that respect, sue the author in a court of law, and I am persuaded that he will meet all that justice to which his cause may entitle him. In short, His Royal Highness not only patronizes but protects the freedom of the press, without which he is sensible the knowledge of letters would be deprived of that efficacy and power, which they are endowed with, even to a degree of magic; and, notwithstanding that he well knows, that it has been levelled against himself, for he reads all the new publications, he says that it is not fair to argue against the use of any thing, from the abuse of it; in consequence of which, he passes over many of these literary articles, with that generosity and forgiveness, which are ever found inseparable from a great mind.

Before we go farther, it will be necessary to observe that the mother of the Prince was CAROLINA MATILDA, the sister of our sovereign. The Prince was born on the 28th of

January, 1768; from that to 1772 he was nursed by his Royal Mother, and, in his eighth year, he was placed under the care of General EICHSTED *, one of the ministers of state, together with GEORGE SPORON †, a learned Dane: his own household was then fixed, and the Prince's table was encircled twice a day with gentlemen of the very first excellence in their departments. I have heard some of those guests say, who had studied the temper of their Royal Host, that he discovered, at a very early period, an uniformity and presence of mind, that would have reflected dignity on riper years; particularly as those rare qualities were balanced and directed by a cool

* HANS HENRY EICHSTEDT, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Lord Chamberlain and General of the Cavalry; received his dismissal as Minister of State, in 1784, and retired from Court to his estate.

† GEORGE SPORON, Counsellor of Conferences, Grand Bailiff of Coldinghus, author of several learned treatises; amongst which that on Synonymous Words in the Danish language, 2 vol. 8vo. for the use of his royal pupil, may be classed with the best of that kind.

and deliberate judgment. Anxious to accumulate knowledge, his questions were always directed with that aim ; and, in order to be thoroughly informed on every point, he frequently repeated his queries at long intervals to the same person, to remark, if the last answer tallied with the first. His favourite subject, even in conversation, was the noblest that could possibly suggest itself to the human mind, THE RIGHTS OF MAN, the Constitution of Denmark, and the relative situation of the surrounding nations. His interviews with Count BERNSTORFF*,

* ANDREAS PETRUS, Count of BERNSTORFF, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Minister of State for foreign affairs, President of the German Chancery, &c. This nobleman is heir and successor to the late JOH. HARTW. ERNEST Count BERNSTORFF, who united in his character all those talents of the mind and qualities of the heart, that could justly recommend him to the general esteem of his own times, and transmit his name with honour to posterity. Indeed no name is higher on the roll of those citizens, whose memory is most revered for a warm and disinterested love of their country. Actuated by that generous spirit, he was the first, who attempted the abolition of feudal slavery in Denmark ; and in order to shew, that he really thought the condition of a *glebæ adscriptus* was a violent infringement

the present minister of state; Count SCHIMMELMAN*; Count CHRIST. REVENTLOW†; Chamberlain SUHM‡; Counsellor ERICHSEN§ and KOFOED

of the laws of human nature, he gave perfect freedom to all his vassals, with the advice of his noble heir. The consequences were such as might be expected. The tenants of Bernstorff, formerly wretched as all their neighbours, had no sooner taken the land, which they inhabited in a perpetual feu, and begun to labour for their own benefit, than plenty and happiness took up their abode amongst them, and rendered them the objects of admiration and envy. And so sensible have the tenants been of this, that they have erected a very handsome monument of marble to the memory of their deceased father and benefactor, near the high road leading to Copenhagen, which the traveller often bedews with the tear of gratitude, intermingled with rapture, in reflecting on those deeds, which crowned the truest friend of human rights.

* ERNEST HENRY Count of SCHIMMELMAN, Knight of the Order of the Elephant, Minister of State, first Lord of the Treasury, &c.

† CHRISTIAN DITLEV FRIDERICK, Count of REVENTLOW, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, President of the Exchequer.

‡ PETER FRIDERICK SUHM, one of the Lords of his Danish Majesty's Bed-chamber, Historiographer to the King; President of the Danish Society for the improvements of the Danish Language and History.

§ JOHN ERICHSEN, Counsellor of Conferences, and one of the Lords of the Exchequer; a gentleman much esteemed for his elegant taste and learning; he died in 1787.

ANKER*, Professor of Law, were frequent; and he entertained a great affection for Privy Counsellor LUXDORPH†, first Deputy of the Danish Chancery, whose deep knowledge in whatever concerned his country, was tempered with an equal share of prudence and Attic salt. In 1784 the Prince was first publicly examined in the principles of our sacred religion, for which, on all occasions, he manifests the highest respect. He now began to discover what is called the ruling passion, for hitherto he had not intermeddled in any public business, or even taken

* PETER KOFOED ANKER, Counsellor of Conferences, and Professor of Civil Law in the University of Copenhagen. What the illustrious Blackstone was amongst us, the late Anker has proved himself to be in Denmark. His Lectures on the Constitution of that Country are highly esteemed. He died in 1787.

† BOLLE WILLIALM LUXDORPH, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, first Deputy of the Danish Chancery, President of the Royal Society of Sciences. He died in 1788.

upon himself to recommend any measure beyond that of a mere spectator. But in 1784 he had no sooner taken his seat in the Privy Council, than he opened a new scene, as interesting as it was novel. GENERAL WARRANTS, which had been but too common, in an instant were abolished; the Prince, in an open and manly manner, avowed himself an enemy of them. The Peasants till 1787 had been in a situation little better than the brute creation; they scarce could be said to possess any loco-motive power, inasmuch that, they had no liberty to leave one estate and to settle on another, without the purchased permission from their masters; and if they chanced to move without their permission, they were claimed as strayed cattle. Such was the state of those wretched beings, who, at best*, only might be said to vegetate. These chains of feudal slavery were now broken, through the in-

* The reader is requested to refer to page 124 for a note concerning this matter.

terest of his Royal Highness; and the prisoners, for such I think they might be called, were declared free, upon a plan laid down by the patriotic and humane Count BERNSTORFF and Count CHRISTIAN DITLEF FRIDERICH REVENTLOW.

The trade of Iceland, which for upwards of four centuries had been monopolized, first by the Hanse-towns and afterwards by a few individuals of Copenhagen, was thrown open in 1787 to every subject of the Danish empire. In short, the flame of liberty, which glowed in Iceland, once more under his auspices began to illumine that long neglected country; as he looks on the Icelanders with the same indulgent eye, that he does on the Danes, from the first principles of sound policy, it is not to be wondered at that he is adored in the most distant recesses of that region. A law was likewise passed to encourage foreigners to settle in Iceland. No law was ever framed on freer principles of humanity and justice, for there cannot be a

stronger proof of the Prince's attachment to both, than the first article, by which his majesty, in pursuance of the representation of his son, has enacted, that every new settler of the Christian persuasion in Iceland shall have the most uncontrouled liberty to worship the Supreme Being in whatever manner he conceived to be the best; and that such settler and his posterity shall be entitled to all the immunities, which the native subjects of Denmark enjoy, as long as they demean themselves as peaceable citizens*.

* When the royal father and son thus publicly declared, that they verily believed, that man, whatever his religion might be, ought to enjoy the same privileges, it need not be a matter of surprize, that the Prince, on coming of age, ordered, that every person should have free access to his presence.

* The charter and privileges given to new settlers in Iceland is dated Christiansbourg on the 17th of November, 1786. A like privilege has been also granted to the new settlers in Finmark, dated in the Palace of Frederik'sberg, on the 17th of July, 1789.

Even the minutest articles which is preferred on those occasions, never fail to draw his attention ; and in order to be able to discharge those duties, which he has imposed on himself, he has laid down certain rules and mode of living, which he adheres to with the greatest exactness.

He rises at six ; reads when he is dressing, the petitions presented to him the preceding evening ; rides out, reviews the garrison, returns at twelve ; and when dressing, reads such papers, as may have been presented in the forenoon. At two he dines with the royal family ; and at four retires to his own apartments in the palace of Christiansbourg, where persons of all rank and conditions are admitted in their turn. The people promiscuously assemble in the antichambre, whence they are conducted one by one to the Prince, to whom they present in writing the particulars of their complaint, request, &c. accompanied by a few words merely expressive of the contents, to which his Highness returns a short answer, but not till he has

asked such questions as never fail to make him master of the subject; at the end of which he bows, which is the sign to withdraw.

The levee closes at seven. The Prince then drinks tea in his own closet, the better to indulge the wish, which he has so frequently manifested, of transacting public business. It is also on this account that the Prince for some time past has denied himself the pleasure of conversing with his royal sister, (of whom he is remarkably fond), except on Sunday evenings, from eight to nine. This done, he reads petitions, on which he makes observations in the margin; after which he classes them according to the nature of the subject; and in this manner they are sent to the secretaries of state, whose departments are calculated to meet these classes. Supper is ready at nine, and at eleven all is quiet in the palace.

The Prince may be said to keep no secretary, for he writes all his private letters with his own hand, such alone excepted, which, according to

etiquette are only signed by his Royal Highness, and which are written by Marshal BULOW*, whom the Prince honours with the execution of his commands and resolutions, all of which are copied into a book by this gentleman; who, besides, takes care of three purses, being allotted to the management of the Prince for the encouragement of public spirit, arts and sciences.

Notwithstanding that the Prince divides his time thus regularly, yet the Danish muses are not forgotten; and at no one period perhaps they did ever experience a sincerer friend than the Prince; for as he is a real lover of his country and his native language, scarce an article is published in the Danish dominions that he does not read, from which he makes short extracts; besides the discourse at table, to which a number of gentlemen are every day invited,

* JOHN BULOW, Knight of the Orders of Dannebrog and the Polar Star, Privy Counsellor, and one of the Lords of His Danish Majesty's Bed-chamber, Marshal to his Royal Highness the Prince of Denmark, and Honorary Member of the Royal Academy.

turns on literary news and the merits of writers. To betray a want of knowledge on these occasions would be mortifying indeed ; hence an emulation of being acquainted with the best authors is inspired.

I know it is whispered at Copenhagen, that neither MELPOMENE nor yet THALIA find favour in the Prince's eyes, but in this the public is rather mistaken, as the charge is grounded on appearance only. The truth is, His Royal Highness patronises both, in proportion to their merit.

He only laments that the duty of his situation, and the pressure of public affairs, do not permit him to indulge a more intimate acquaintance with the Aonian maids ; and as a proof of his attachment to them, he has settled a liberal pension on some of their votaries, which may enable them to study the chastest of our actors.

As to the other branches of literature, it is certainly true, that he patronises both without partiality, as he is convinced, that one assists

and promotes the other; in consequence of which, many works are ripened into maturity in the sunshine of Royal patronage alone, such as the *Flora Danica* by Vahl*; *Coquilage* of Regenfus† by Chemnitz‡ and Spengler§; *The Scriptorum Rerum Danicarum* by Suhm||; *The Description of*

* *Flora Danica* representing the whole vegetable kingdom of Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Greenland, North Feroe, and the Duchies of Sleswic and Holstein, was begun by O. OEDER and Otto Frederick Muller, and continued by Professor Vahl. Of this very elegant work 15 volumes or fasciculi have already appeared; and a copy has been given gratis to every parish in both kingdoms, in order to be left by the rector to his successor.

† This work generally esteemed to be a chief d'œuvre of its kind was begun by Regenfus at the expence of Frederic V. father to His present Danish Majesty.

‡ CHEMNITZ, D. D. Rector of the Garrison's Church of Copenhagen, one of the first Conchiliologists of our times.

§ LAURENCE SPENGLER, Keeper of His Danish Majesty's Museum, and Member of many learned Societies in Europe.

|| This collection of the Danish Historians, from the earliest times till the fifteenth century, was begun by JACOB LANGEBECK a learned Dane, who died in 1777; but is continued by Peter Frederick Suhm. (See note, p. 8.) Of this work 6 volumes in folio have already appeared, and many more are to follow.

the King's Mint Cabinet by Messrs. Muller†, Nielson‡, Spengler and Voss*; a splendid edition of the *New Testament*, in Greek, by *Mr. Birch*; besides a number of learned gentlemen, who have been sent abroad to various parts of Europe to improve and enrich the literature of Denmark.

New societies have likewise been formed, particularly one, whose object is, to promote the cultivation of natural philosophy throughout the Danish dominions.

This society has been peculiarly happy in the smiles of His Highness; a certain proof that he is convinced of its utility.

Copenhagen is the scene in which the Prince has as yet been viewed; but he is now to be

* The Mint and Medallic Cabinet, as far as it relates to Denmark, is very large. The plates already finished representing Coins and Medals, exceed two hundred plates in royal folio.

† FREDERICK ADAM MULLER, Counsellor of Conferences, and Chief of the Stamp-Office.

‡ GEORGE NIELSON, Counsellor of Conferences, Principal Librarian to the King.

considered on his travels from one province to another.

The true patriotic zeal, which directs and inspires the conduct of the Prince at court, pervades with unabated warmth his excursions throughout the various parts of Denmark, Norway, and Holstein; for, in order to carry those schemes into execution, which have been digested by the wisest heads, and cherished by the warmest hearts, in concert with his own, His Highness in his tour has thought proper to dispense with all that pomp and ceremony, which he says at best are only calculated to attract the admiration of the unthinking, at the expence of time; which, in his opinion, is rather too precious a sacrifice to a gratification at once so evanescent and idle; and which, in the end, sinks the mind into a state of supineness, from whence it is not easy to emerge.

On all occasions the Prince is determined to see every thing with his own eyes; the manner, therefore, in which he travels, is as follows:

In order that he may observe the state and cultivation of the country, he goes in an open landau; and that his company may be as little troublesome to others, at the same time that it is agreeable to himself, he is accompanied only by MARSHALL BULOW, the constant friend and companion of his youth.

The Prince having once adopted the principles of a citizen, he is observed to be equally happy in the cottage of a peasant as in the chateau of the nobleman. He converses with both, listens with pleasure to whatever they are pleased to advance, and avails himself of the best information and advice, equally precious to him, whether they flow from the lips of an Aristotle, clad in purple, or those of a Diogenes', who was only attentive to the ornaments of his mind.

In discourse with those, whom providence has kindly ordained to flake their thirst at the purest fountains, and whose content is wealth and poverty their guard, he never fails to impress them with the love of their own native

foil, and the importance of their own moral worth in the scale of empire and creation. He also recalls to their memory that just sense of liberty, for which his countrymen at a former period were so highly celebrated; and what greater instance can be given of the truth of this assertion, than this: that since the present King of Denmark changed capital punishments into hard labour and imprisonment for life, crimes have decreased ninety per cent: as the Danes look on confinement, even of a short duration, to be worse than death itself. The Prince always enquires into the state of the family, number of children, age, disposition, and employment, but above all, what is the progress they have made at school, in reading, writing, principles of the christian religion, spinning, weaving, &c. The education of youth is his favourite object: and I myself have had the pleasure of hearing His Royal Highness declare, that the happiness of a nation depends entirely on the education of the subject:

as first principles are implanted in those which expand in future manners, in proportion as they have taken root. For this purpose, new schools have been established of late throughout every parish in the Danish dominions, where children are instructed in the first principles of religion, reading, writing, and domestic employments, at the expence of the crown; and for the purpose of exciting emulation amongst the pupils, premiums, suitable to rank and age, are distributed; which are found to have an excellent effect*.

That these salutary streams of practical knowledge may be constantly supplied, a seminary, which may be called the fountain of the rest, is erected at BLAÆGAARD, a villa near the capital, where the children of soldiers of every regiment have their appropriated classes; and where every parish, throughout the whole kingdom, have

* Professor SEVEL, previous to these settlements, was sent abroad, in order to study the various modes of education throughout Europe, and to report his observations to a committee appointed for the purpose laying down a plan for a fixed and regular establishment.

some children, who are carefully educated in the principles of religion and virtue—the true basis of our happiness here and hereafter; and afterwards in whatever trade or business their inclination may lead them, viz. spinning, knitting, weaving, &c.

His R. Highness frequently visits this abode of innocence and infantine industry, and goes thro' the different classes, which he never fails to reward in proportion to desert. In like manner the Prince visits the Orphan house, poor houses, hospitals, &c. nay, the very gloom of the prisons are often brightened up with his presence, so that even the very outcasts of society are not found beneath his notice.

The example of the Prince has extended its influence to others. Several persons of rank and fortune are emulous to distinguish themselves in the propagation of knowledge and liberty, by patronizing these divine pursuits.

The schools on the estates of Count JOHAN LUDVIC REVENTLOW of BRAHETROLLEBOURG,

yielded the Prince the highest pleasure. Having examined these schools, he was pleased to address his noble host thus :

“ Sir. May your zeal and mode, so well calculated for the instruction of youth, become
“ universal throughout our native country. I
“ have nothing more at heart, than that the
“ rising generation may receive an education
“ from the earliest infancy, which may prove to
“ them the richest source of happiness through-
“ out their lives.”

The Prince moreover pays a great attention to cleanliness, which he conceives to be of as much importance to the body, as knowledge to the mind ; or as our favourite Poet beautifully expresses it,

Ev'n from the body's purity, the mind
Receives a secret sympathetic aid.

And, in order to set the example, he is always plain and neat himself. It is solely on this account, that he has abolished the use of hair-powder and pomatum amongst the army, as a

source of filth and disorders amongst the common men; whose health and good spirits he is anxious on every occasion to cherish and support, even at the expence of personal fatigue. A greater proof perhaps of this cannot be adduced, than the share, which he takes with them in all the hardships incident to military life. For, he has been seen to exercise the troops from an early hour in the morning, till the evening spread her latest shades; march at their head as one of themselves; suffer the extremes of heat and cold; take up his abode at night with them under the chilly autumn air. During his campaign in Sweden, he might be said to court enterprize, and to forget, that danger existed always in the front of battle, when he was not engaged in visiting the sick and wounded, and allaying the feverish heat of the one with the cooling draft, or binding the other with balmy fingers. Friends and foes were alike to him in that situation.

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Those that were present at that critical period are at a loss to point out, what is most praiseworthy in his R. Highness: his courage tempered with magnanimity, or his humanity. As a friend to mankind he left Sweden, and preferred the peace and happiness of two rival nations, to those laurels, which the God of war held ready in his hand to encircle his brows.

The hasty outlines of the Prince's public character being given, some observations on his private, as far as well known, may not be thought superfluous.

In every part of his life, his R. Highness seems to be actuated by an universal spirit of benevolence, from the love and profound respect he bears towards his father; which shews the sacred manner, in which he holds the divine ties, which nature intended should subsist betwixt parents and their offspring. He is remarkably fond of his Royal sister, the amiable consort of the DUKE OF HOLSTEIN AUGUSTENBURGH, on account of their near kindred, and that uncommon share of

good sense, exquisite taste and politeness, which have fallen to the lot of that affable Princess.

In the choice of friends, the Prince is cautious and prudent, but when chosen, they are sure to experience all that warmth and firmness, which the most generous heart can boast. In consequence of which he never fails to visit his friends in person, when confined by illness. Thus he has been known frequently to tender his personal services to their Excellencies, Counts, BERNSTORFF, SCHACH RATHLOU*, TOTT†, ministers of State, General HUTH‡, and Chevalier BULOW, his R. Highness' marshal.

In company with the fair sex, he never exceeds the boundaries prescribed by the strictest

* OTTO SCHACH RATHLOU, Knight of the order of the Elephant, and Privy Counsellor, has now retired on his Estate.

† Count OTTO TOTT died in the year 1785.

‡ WILHELM HUTH, Knight of the order of the Elephant, Minister of State, General of the Infantry; a man to whom it may be applied, with the strictest truth, what the Roman Historian said of Marc. Porcius Cato, that in whatever country he had happened to have been born, his abilities must necessarily have raised him to the first dignities of the State.

delicacy. In public conversation, as well as in private, he is always observed to maintain a graceful modesty and reserve. He listens with attention to every person that speaks, and when done, advances his opinion with diffidence, and always in few words, founded on reason, and supported by a cool and deliberate premeditation, in a manner which captivates every one, who hears him. And thus his affability and condescension, like the milder rays of the sun, instead of diminishing his lustre serves to kindle the hearts of men with the strongest respect and love—which is increased, if possible, by his manly height and well-proportioned strength of body, the dignity of his aspect and the sound health which he enjoys in the pride of his years.

The Prince, (as all Princes should), looks on his promise to be sacred, the result of which is, that it is always attended with the most punctual discharge; for which reason his humanity often puts him to a greater expence than his pecuniary circumstances may be supposed to

afford ; for it does not unfrequently happen, that he has taken upon himself to maintain those, whose income has been ruined by unforeseen accidents, such as neither industry nor prudence could foresee, nor yet avert. One instance of the many may prove this.

“ A miller in Jutland had contracted with government for a certain quantity of flour, to be delivered in a limited time. Scarce was the bargain concluded, when the price rose, contrary to the expectation of every person, to an uncommon height: the Lords of the Exchequer insisted on the terms of the contract ; in short the man was ruined, and had no resource but to implore the interference of the Prince in his behalf. His Highness took care, to enquire into the subject, and on finding, that the miller bore a good character, he sent for him and spoke to him thus : “ The laws enjoin, that a civil contract shall be fulfilled, and leave it not in my
“ power to interpose ; the law of the land must
“ have its course: all that I can do, is to relieve

“ your family in such a manner, as to secure
“ them from indigency, and to enable you
“ once more to persevere in your industrious
“ pursuits, as a good citizen.” Guided by
these principles, His Royal Highness released
twenty-nine unfortunate debtors immured in
the jail of Copenhagen, and restored them to
their wives, children, friends and society, on
the fourteenth of September, the day, that he
made his public entry into that metropolis in
company with his Royal consort, for the first
time. Besides his R. Highness annually* pays a
considerable sum to literary persons and young
men of promising talents at home and abroad†.

* Mr. CONSET, in his travels, speaks in very high terms
of His Royal Highness's liberality towards the Literati.

† Amongst these was the late Professor PAULSEN, who
travelled into Norway, at the expence of his Royal Master,
for the laudable purpose of cherishing that peculiar genius,
which he discovered even in infancy for landscape painting,
than which perhaps no place could furnish him with
finer views, than the shapeless rocks, hanging mountains,
and woody theatre, of a country, intersected with cas-
cades and water-falls, some of which are little inferior to the
famous Niagara—in all of which Nature wantons in her

Nor is the honest but indigent handicraft excluded from his royal bounty : witness the China manufacture established at Copenhagen, which has lately received the most flattering marks of the Prince's favour. He has ordered a Table service to be made ; the set is to represent the entire *Flora Danica* painted after nature. The dishes are to be ornamented with a complete series of all the herbs growing in the Danish dominions, arranged after the classification of the immortal

prime. This artist may be said to be the same in painting, what Shakespear was in poetry. The apartments of the Prince in Frederickberg, near Copenhagen, boast the magic of that pencil, which the hand of death arrested in the meridian of its power. His fate will be long lamented, and in addition to this irreparable loss, the engraving in colours, invented by PAULSEN, is also stopped, and the effect of an annuity, which the Prince settled on him for the purpose of supporting promising pupils, who should discover an aptitude to imbibe the emanation of his powers.

What, however the Norwegian Diana has lost in the death of this admired genius, the Danish Dryads have in some measure repaired in Mr. BRADT, a landscape painter, who, under the auspices of His Royal Highness, has set out on a picturesque journey, through the Islands of which the Danish empire is composed : the views thus taken are to be engraved in copper.

Linnæus : together with the names in Latin and Danish—the baskets represent the flowers; and the figures, the various dresses, worn by the peasants of Denmark and Norway. And in order to fan the sparks of emulation amongst the people, whose chief employments are husbandry and manufactures, he exerts all his interest, to promote the patriotic and benevolent views of the œconomical society established at Copenhagen, on the Royal authority, and of which he is the Patron.

One of his methods in particular is truly exemplary, which is to order pamphlets moral and scientific, published at his own expence, to be distributed among the third class of the inhabitants of Denmark and Norway. These are the amusements in which he finds himself most happy, to which may be added music and dancing. In consequence of which he frequently appears at balls, both at those given every fourth night at court, and those kept up by subscrip-

tion of the citizens where he dances as one of themselves. He is never seen to play at cards, or mix in any amusement, which did not tend either to the improvement of his mind or health. In short, the conduct of this Prince is stamped with that consistency of behaviour, which enables him to pursue with unremitting zeal, the prudent and benevolent schemes, which he has planned for the benefit of his grateful country. And if any thing is wanting to complete his character, his late matrimonial choice crowns it. The Princess, whom he has chosen, is amiable; the goodness of her heart is only equalled by the charms of her person—those charms were seen, known and fixed on by the Prince himself, so that the union is the result of mutual passion, improved by a long acquaintance.

The Danish nation must experience the best effects under the benignity of a Princess, adored by all, who have the happiness of

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approaching her. Hence the general wish,

"Their nuptial bed may smiling concord dress,

"And V^{ENUS} still the happy union bless!

"Wrinkled with age, may nuptial love and truth

"To their dim eyes recal the bloom of youth."

FAREWELL.

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR,

I CAN easily perceive your uneasiness on account of your favourite NINE, from an opinion I presume, that the attachment, which the Prince of Denmark on all occasions evinces to the Military Sciences, must be ominous to the rest—that is, if I understand you right, that the Arts and Sciences were never destined to flourish in the Empire of Vulcan and Mars.

I shall not dispute this point at present, tho' much might be advanced from ancient and even modern times, to shew that the "Sisters of the sacred Well" have not always been frightened from their hallowed haunts by the voice of Bellona, but, on the contrary, that their interest

has been promoted and protected by the very hand, that let loose the banners of blood. You may produce Sparta, it is true ; whence all, that could refine the tone of elegance, was exiled, and that too by a common law. At the same time, I hope, you will not forget Athens, where the smiles of the Graces reflected lustre on the spear of the warrior ; where bravery and learning were so blended together, that succeeding ages cannot sufficiently admire the happiness of the combination ; and so convinced were the ancients of the necessity of cultivating the arts of war and peace jointly, that they represented Minerva in arms, and what could they mean by investing her armed statue with the fate of Troy, but this, that its empire would decline and be destroyed, whenever the Trojans should either grow effeminate and cultivate the arts of peace alone, or dedicate themselves wholly to arms, without respect to the polite sciences and belles lettres. The polite arts never shown brighter than in those days when the field of Marathon

and the Coast of Salamis were immortalized by heroes, who, flushed with that spirit of liberty and independence, which arise from a sentiment of conscious merit, have handed down to posterity, the most illustrious monuments of unrivalled bravery and refined taste.

And to come still nearer home; when did even Gallia shine brighter in the annals of literature than in the days of Louis XIV. that ambitious monarch, who, whilst he carried destruction in one hand, was not less anxious to cultivate the arts of peace with the other.

But why do we seek for great examples abroad, while we have so many proofs at home. What country has ever been a more illustrious mother and nurse of heroes and philosophers, than our own? where has the union of Mars and Minerva been closer? Indeed the warlike genius of our nation never interfered with the sublime and beautiful: courage and learning have been equally cherished in the bosom of liberty. MILTON, the greatest prodigy of mor-

tals, inferior to Homer only in age, was born and bred in the reign of Mars,

“And spread Great-Britain’s name o’er land and seas,

“Whatever clime the sun’s bright circle warms.”

Contemporaries of MARLBOROUGH, the modern Q. FABIVS MAXIMVS, were NEWTON, within whose comprehensive genius the universe first found its limits; and POPE, whose chaste muse was the daughter of Philosophy and the Graces; who would, if he had lived in ancient Greece, had a temple erected to his memory.

With respect to Denmark, I shall only beg leave to remind you of what you already know, that this country, which has given birth to a great number of heroes, has ever delighted in bedewing the laurel, which encircles the brow of the warrior, with the “melodious tears” of Helicon.

The poems of RAGNAR LODBROK, the Scandinavian Tyrtæus, are equal to his bravery*;

* Among these is the Death Song of RAGNAR LODBROK, King of Denmark, published by the Rev. JAMES JOHNSTONE. Copenhagen, 1783, 12mo. and by CHRIST.

and the poem of BODWAR BIARKA, a bard and hero at the court of HROLF KRAKA, so admirably translated by SAXO GRAMMATICUS*, the ornament of the martial reign of WALDEMAR the First, challenges the strictest examination of taste and genius.—What has been in former ages may happen again, and it by no means follows, that, because his Royal Highness has taken upon himself the arduous task of restoring to his beloved people that generous spirit and discipline, which have so often won the glories of the well-contested field†. Literature and

ADOLPH KLOTZ in a Collection of Warlike Songs annexed to TYRTÆI Carmina. Altenburgi, 1763, 8vo. with cuts.

* See Saxo Grammatic. Hist. Dan. Libr. II. & Snorro Sturleson's History of Norway, 2 Vol. p. 347.

† Nothing can be a stronger proof of this assertion, than a letter of Queen Anne to Frederick IV. King of Denmark, wherein Her Majesty congratulates him on account of that unrivalled bravery and discipline which the Danish troops, sent to her assistance, had shewn on all occasions under the British Banners.—See Er. Pontoppidani Vestigia Danorum extra Daniam.

To which may be added the following inscription under a portrait placed in the great room of the Royal Regiment of Artillery at Woolwich:

sciences are at present not neglected in Denmark, and the Danes are far from being strangers to the divine influence of Minerva. The Prince has fully shewn, that he is not insensible of what constitutes not only the real honour, but the happiness of his country; and that, notwithstanding he devotes much of his time to the discipline of his troops, in the end it will be found equally divided betwixt your Par-

Lieutenant General ALBERT BORGARD,

Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Artillery,

Of an ancient and honourable family in Denmark.

He began his military career in the Age of 16, in the Year 1675, in the army of his Sovereign, at that time at war with Sweden, first as Cadet, then as Ensign in the Queen's Regiment of Foot. Anno. 1692 he came into the British service under the auspices of King William, was personally engaged in 18 battles, and 24 Sieges, and, covered with wounds, finished a life full of years and honour, Feb. 7, 1751, aged 92.

To the conspicuous talents of this gallant officer, Great Britain stands indebted for having reduced to a regular system the science and the service of artillery, as also for reformation and establishment of the Regiment.

The officers of that Corps from the great respect they bear to his distinguished valour and abilities, have caused this portrait taken from an original painting, to be placed in this military repository to his memory. A. D. 1785.

nassian favourities, and the sons of Thor*. His Royal Highness has entered at large into the views of his father, which he follows up with an ardour, that borders on enthusiasm. Under these auspicious beams, we see the *Flora Danica* expand and flourish, and Professor VAHL enrich the Botanical garden of Charlotesburgh with new treasures collected on his travels through Norway, Spain, and various parts of Africa, all of which have been described and published in his *Botanical Tour*.—To explore the natural kingdom of Iceland and the Feroe Islands Mr. NICOLAI MOORE has been delegated—and the Chevalier LÖVENORN, in company with Messrs. ROTHE, EGEDE, and SNEDORPH, have been sent to Greenland in order to restore, if possible, to Europe, the coast of that immense continent, which a colony from Iceland had inhabited till the fourteenth century. The work of SHELLS, which REGENFUSS had begun with so happy imitation of Nature, that art might be

* The God of War.

said to rival her in that respect, is now continued by the Rev. JOHN HEINRICH CHEMNIZ, the first conchylologist of our age, and LAURENCE SPENGLER, keeper of his Majesty's museum, a gentleman highly esteemed for his extensive knowledge, and, what is better, universal philanthropy.

But whilst Natural Philosophy feels the fostering ray, cultivated by a society of men, whose patient researches and ingenuity, can be only equalled by their amor patriæ, History is not left to say, that she, that has embalmed the memory of others, is forgotten herself. The *SCRIPTORES RERUM DANICARUM*, of which the seventh volume will soon appear, is an undertaking which in point of correctness and elegance may vie, nay excel MURATORI'S. This, of course, must reflect honour on the Editors LANGEBECK and SUHM. Besides the Prince, fully convinced of the utility of Coins and Medals, with regard to history, has patronised a description of the Royal Cabinet, viz. that

part which contains the Danish Coins from the earliest period to the present. This work (of which more than two hundred plates, in royal folio, are already finished) is superintended by men of the first science in Denmark, viz. Chamberlain SUHM, Privy Counsellors NIELSON, MULLER, and Mr. SPENGLER. When it is completed, it will perhaps be needless to say, that it may be classed with the first national honour.

The Medallie Cabinet is truly grand, and that part perhaps, which contains the Danish and Norwegian Coins, is equal to any in Europe; it is kept in the Castle of ROSENBURG, and arranged in the best order to meet the public eye; but liberal as this is, the Survey of Denmark and Norway, which is carried on with unremitting spirit at the expence of the royal purse, upon trigonometrical principles, under the direction of Messrs. BUGGE and MORVILLE, cannot fail of contributing highly to the extension of trade and navigation.

The Maps of Denmark already published are looked on by the cognoscenti as the best in every respect. The Coast of Iceland has likewise been most exactly surveyed, and an Atlas has been published under the care of Chevalier LÖVENORN, as director of the archives, which contain the Nautical Maps belonging to the Royal Navy: an institution established under the patronage of His Royal Highness.

Every undertaking, which his Royal Highness cherishes has proved equally successful and beneficial to the public, if we except that concerning the late painter PAULSEN, whom I have mentioned in my former Letter.

In order that the public may derive every advantage from the literary treasures belonging to the King, his Majesty with the advice of his son has given orders to purchase a copy of every book published in the Danish dominions from the earliest to the present period. A price is paid in proportion to the scarceness of the work. And a premium in addition, to those, who point out the proprietor of the same, so that he may be

treated with. A collection of Manuscripts is also forming, together with the best books and prints annually published in Europe. In order to accomplish this desirable object, Dr. MOLDENHAWER, the present librarian, made two travels into Spain in order to study the literary history of a country so little known with that respect although so highly deserving. The collection at present of Spanish and Portuguese books is very extensive; the English and French complete; and the Palæotypa, or early printed books, considerably increased under the will of the late Count TOTT, who left his collection of printed books anterior to 1520 to the King: and which the deceased had made from 1728 to 1784 with an assiduity almost incredible. I must not forget to tell you, that the library is open every day (except on Sundays) to the public, and a room set on part, warm in winter, for the accommodation of visitants; and books are lent out to known characters, nay even manuscripts, which, in my opinion, is rather hazardous. So you think with me, that a support so liberal to the sciences

must operate as a powerful example on others : so it does. The King's brother, His Royal Highness Prince FREDERICK is warm in the support of the Arts. With a munificence that would do honour to a Prince of a superior fortune, he has, at his own expence, caused to be published SNORRO STURLESON'S History of Norway and the neighbouring kingdoms up to the year 1263, in four volumes folio. Besides he has encircled his villa at JÆGERSPRIS with monuments in marble by WIDEWELDT, to the memory of those Danes, Norwegians, Icelanders, and Holsteners, who rendered their memory dear to their country. And that immortality may not be wanting, those illustrious busts are inscribed by the inimitable pen of his Excellency Privy Counsellor OWE HOECH GULDBERG, and the engravings of them are described by the pen of PETER TOPP WANDAL, the SHERIDAN of Denmark. These monuments are published at the expence of the Prince*.

* The lives of those men, who have been honoured with monuments erected in JÆGERSPRIS, by P. T. WANDAL. Copenh. 1783.

Let us sympathize in the feelings of Count GRIFFENFELD, tried, and cast in the last century for high treason, if from the realms of day he could see the monument of his innocence, the most conspicuous at JÆGERSPRIS*.

Next to the Prince, I think I may place the Chamberlain SUHM, a man who has devoted his ample fortune to the benefit of the state. His library contains about 120000 volumes of the best writers, annually enlarged. His collection of Manuscripts is exceedingly large and precious, and among the rest, there are all those written by and in the possession of that learned philologist REISCHE of LEIPZIG. Independent of this, the library of this truly patriotic nobleman is open to public consultation six hours every day, and books are also lent out to readers of every description. He also contributes in a manner the most liberal to the publication of books written by young men, and premiums are distributed by him to such, as give the most

* See: *Portraits Historiques des Hommes illustres de Dannemarck, & Memoires de Comte de GRIFFENFELD*, par T. de HOFFMAN. Paris & Londres, 1761.

distant hopes of genius; and, to crown the whole, he pays an annual salary to students from Iceland, for translating the ancient writers of that country out of their native language into Latin. Many of these are already published at the expence of this Northern MÆCENAS.

Perhaps I ought to inform you that a legacy was left for this purpose in 1732, which since 1772 has been under the direction of six gentlemen, of the first literary eminence, under the title of the Arna Magnean Committee; who, with a secretary and two interpreters, are to publish successively that immense hive, if I may use the expression, of Northern literature collected by ARNAS MAGNUSON, an Icclander, under his travels through Europe, but more particularly in Iceland. Several specimens have already appeared highly honourable to the liberal donor, and those literati whom the King, in 1772, appointed for that purpose.

Besides the King's GREAT LIBRARY, there are several other public libraries: viz. that of the University; of the Botanical Garden; the

Royal Academy. To which you may still farther add, the well chosen libraries of the Board of Ordnance; the Naval Academy, and the Military School in Amulienburgh. There are many libraries besides, which, though private with regard to property, are entirely at the service of the public with respect to inspection. The best in my opinion of these are the following: first, that of his Excellency OWE HOEGH GULDBERG, who, animated in the career of learning by the most patriotic ardour, has united in his writings, science, genius, and taste. His Universal History is, perhaps, the finest monument of classical knowledge which our century has produced; and his Essay on the sublime genius of our countryman, MILTON, displays the truest delicacy of critical acumen.

Secondly, the libraries of his Excellency Count BERNSTORFF, Count ADAM GOTLOB MOLTKE, General CLASSEN, Messrs CORDSEN, ADAM MULLER, ULDAHL the Danish ERSKINE, and Professor WANDAL. Those of the Privy

Counsellors, Marshal BULOW, HOLMSKIOLD, Messrs SPENGLER and BRUNICKE are composed of Natural History. Farriery and animal œconomy, form that of Professor ABELDGAARD. To the taste and industry of this amiable character, DENMARK is indebted for a Farrier school, perhaps the first in Europe; and a museum of comparative anatomical preparations of horses and other animals, the subjects of his lectures.

It is not in books only that Dania exerts herself, collections are likewise formed of the productions of nature and art. The *Royal Museum*, you remember, was described by JACOBÆUS, and LAURENZEN in the beginning of the present century. The additions it has received since that period, amount, at present, to twice as much, and will, at least, fill two folio volumes, and afford an ample field for the transcendent abilities of Messrs SPENGLER, father and son, who are invested with the trust of this inestimable treasure. *The Museum* which is likely to be still farther enriched with the mineral cabinet

of Privy Counsellor HOLMSKIOLD, the finest perhaps existing; being the fruit of many years perseverance, and the most unabating and incredible expence in pensions, to persons sent on purpose to Russia, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Great-Britain, North Feroe, and Iceland, in order to collect whatever was rare in those parts. The king has purchased the whole cabinet, and intends to make it public. For this end, a description is preparing under the eye of the learned Collector himself, which, in point of exactness and critical taste, bids fair to challenge every other in that line. The collection of the University, is only inferior to each of these Museums. It consists of quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, and fossils, arranged in the nicest order, in a building 146 feet long, and 28 wide. The whole is a present worthy a King, and well entitled to the inscription placed over the door: THEATRUM NATURE MUNIFICENTIA REGIS CONDITUM, A. C. M,DCC,LXXII. A more circumstantial his-

tory of this and other cabinets sacred to nature, within the kingdom, you may learn from MORT. TRAN. BRUNICHE'S *Historical Introduction to the Progress of Natural Philosophy* in Denmark, published at Copenhagen, 1782, in the vernacular language of the country. However I ought not to forget here, that the collection is constantly augmented by this learned gentleman, whose works * bear ample testimony to his extensive knowledge.

Besides the above mentioned Museums, which may be called *public*, we find a great number of private cabinets; of these, however, I shall only mention the most conspicuous, and merely point out the favourite object of each. The repository of curiosities belonging to Count MOLTKE boasts the most valuable specimens of shells and fossils in the highest preservation, and is only inferior in number to

* M. TR. BRUNNICKII *Insectologiæ Sælandicæ prodromus*, 1761. *Entomologia*, 1764. *Ornitologia Borealis*, 1764. *Ictiologia Maffiliensis*, 1768. *Zoologiæ fundamenta*, 1771. *Mineralogia*, 1777—8. *Historia Literaturæ Danicæ Scientiar. Natural.* 1783—8.

that of General CLASSEN, who, besides the mineral kingdom, possesses models of all the engines, which do honour to the refinement of the present day. The collection of shells belonging to Professor SPENGLER, is the proudest monument of his attachment to that science. Here you find a series of marine spoils, collected by the brave followers of the British Columbus, Capt. COOKE. The Cabinets of Chamberlain SUHM, and Mr. COLSMAN, are well stored with ancient armour, and other productions of art; a description of which, would shed light on the History of Handicrafts in the course of past centuries. Medals and coins have been collected by Messrs de HEMMER, KÖLLE, RYBERG and WINDMÖLE, with that success, which ought to be the constant reward of great expence and public spirit. To these last collections, we may add that of his Excellency HOEGH GULDBERG, consisting of ancient coins and antiquities, chiefly Egyptian, Greek, and Roman, which have been lately made public by Professor WIDEWELT, of the Royal Academy. The Cabinet of the late

Privy Counsellor HIELMSTIERNE is rich in coins, medals, pictures, and portraits, which illustrate the Scandinavian history, and which have been described by Mr. WEBER, under the inspection of Chamberlain SUHM.

For the more immediate acquisition of the end aimed at by the King and the Prince, societies of learned men are not wanting in their exertions. The University of Copenhagen, at the head of which the Prince of AUGUSTENBOURGH presides, has received an entire new form. Classical knowledge, founded on critical reading of the Greek and Latin authors, has succeeded to the arbitrary sway of scholastic loquacity; and new branches of sciences have been introduced, hitherto unknown to this seat of learning. Among these are, the useful chairs of Natural History, Botany, Chymistry, Belles Letters, &c. And the Public Trials, to which the students annually submit, are regulated in a manner, which at once excites the strongest emu-

lation, and operates as the means of obtaining those honourable distinctions and rewards, which are held out for that object. But, perhaps, the new regulations relative to Physic and Surgery, are not the least important. These sciences had, till the year 1786, been united and jointly studied under the statutes granted for ages to the faculty of Physicians. A WORM, a BARTHOLIN, a STENO, a WINSLOW, a HENNINGS*, and a KÖLPIN†, had, at various periods, put it beyond a question, that the anatomy of the human frame, as it is the noblest study, was entitled to the first attention, and, of course, ought to be treated by men only, who made it their peculiar study, and who were capable of pursuing it according to the laws of Philosophy. Yet, strange to tell, such had been the power of prejudice long rooted, that surgery had not only been taught in con-

* WILLIAM HENNINGS, Director of the Anatomical Academy, Professor of Anat. Physiol. and Chirurg.

† ALEXANDER KÖLPIN, Surgeon to the Royal Family, Professor of Anatomy, &c.

junction with physic, as I said before, but was moreover left to men, who constituted the Worshipful Company of Barbers. Young WINSLOW*, (the grand nephew of the celebrated anatomist of that name) on his return from France, Great-Britain, and other parts of Europe, brought home every new discovery, and every regulation, which were adopted in these enlightened countries for the improvement of that science. The manner so congenial to nature, in which anatomy is treated in England, struck his philosophic mind, and became his leading object, which he obtained at length, though not without some hard fought struggles. The monument of his victory is brilliant—an Anatomical Academy, incorporated into a Political Body, independent of the University. Their Hall, one of the most elegant buildings, is situated near to the Fre-

* FREDERICH CHRISTIAN WINSLOW, Professor of Theoretical and Practical Surgery, first Surgeon to the Frederick's Hospital.

Frederick's Hospital, and that of *Lying-in Women*, two schools, from which the several counties have already been supplied with Surgeons of equal skill and probity. When I mention this circumstance, I ought to tell you, that every county has, at length, got its own Physician; together with a Surgeon and an Apothecary, all regularly bred and appointed; the Surgeon by his Academy, with his Majesty's consent; and the other, in the like manner, by the Faculty of Physicians, under whose department the Apothecaries act, to prevent the sale of bad or improper drugs: for as particular care has been taken by law, to keep the shops well stored with good and proper medicines, so it is criminal to sell poison to any person, without a warrant from a member of the faculty. Before I leave the University, perhaps you may wish to know the various classes into which it is divided. These are,

First, Divinity, taught by Dr. HORNEMAN, whose observations on PHILO, the Jew, have

met with the highest esteem; Dr. BALLE, the Bishop of Copenhagen, equally beloved for his moderation, and admired for his lectures on revealed Religion; and Dr. MOLDENHAWER, with whose literary merit you are already well acquainted.

Secondly, The Law Faculty, filled by Messrs OBELITZ and NÖRREGAARD, to whom the Danish Jurisprudence is indebted for a precision and order which few other countries can boast.

Thirdly, The Faculty of Physicians, consists of Dr. KRATZENSTEIN, who, besides, fills the chair of Experimental Philosophy; Dr. FRIIS ROTBÖLL, whose *Descriptio & Icones rariorum Plantarum*, Havn. 1773, and a Treatise on the Importance of Botany, published in 1783, you already possess and read, I know, with pleasure; Dr. SAXTORPH, on whose Lectures *De Arte Obstetricia*, the science of Midwifery, is brought upon a level with the most approved schools in Europe; Dr. CALLESON, whose *Principles of*

Anatomy are adopted as a guide in many Universities on the Continent. With Dr. TODE you are better acquainted than I, therefore I have only to say, that while his *Treatise on the Venereal Disease*, and his periodical papers under the various titles of *Sundbed's Tidender*; *Sundbed's blade*; *Hygæa og Muserne*; *Sundbed's Museum*; *Danske Læge*; and *Medical annals* acquaint us with the climate, the physical mode of living, and preserving health in Denmark, we are splendidly entertained with deep researches, served up with abundance of good humour and attic wit; talents which his colleague, Dr. AASHEIM, possesses in a high degree.

Fourthly, The Philosophical Faculty boast of the following gentlemen: Mr. A. KALL, Professor of History, whose *Elements of Universal History* have been introduced into the schools of Denmark; Mr. BUGGE, Professor of Astronomy and Mathematics, and Author of *Lectures on Mathematics*; *Astronomical observations* in

1781—83; and a *Description of the Trigonometrical Survey of Denmark*, works highly esteemed by the literati; Mr. N. KALL, Professor of Oriental Languages, through whose alluring method of rendering the driest subjects interesting and pleasant; Eastern literature has gained many admirers, and bids fair to gain new strength under Dr. ADELER, who, while at Rome, published the *Nummi Cusci ex Museo Borgiano Veletrensi*; and afterwards, an *Account of his Travels through Germany, France, and Italy*; Mr. BÖRGE RYSBRIGHT, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, whose *lectures* are an exact mirror of that enlightened understanding, which makes him always appear with a serene and placid mind; Mr. BADEN, Professor of Belles Lettres. In the writings of this gentleman, the sublime and beautiful have voluntarily united their powers; and his Latin and Danish Dictionary, fully shews to what precision two languages may be carried by an author, whose leading principle is an accurate choice of

words, and the united delicacy of sentiment; of which, besides, nothing can be a stronger proof, than his translation of Tacitus. In addition to this, every class has its extraordinary Professors, who, though they have no vote in the Academic Senate, may be considered, nevertheless, as the candidates of preferment, which is obtained only through literary merit; hence the noblest scene is thrown open to emulation, and he, that bears the prize, is called to fill the chair, as soon as death, or any other accident renders it vacant. From such an assemblage of talents, what may not be expected? the most important places in the state are frequently ornamented with those constellations. Witness Dr. JANSON, the Vice Chancellor, whom the King has raised to the Mitre, as the first reward of his literature and piety; Doctor COLBIÖRNSÉN, also late Professor of Civil Law, in whose expanded bosom the public spirit of his ancestors is happily united, with all that ease, discernment, and elegance of language, with

which MANSFIELD so often moulded the Senate, and illumined the page of Law—talents which cannot fail to render him the boast of the Exchequer, where he has a seat amongst the Lords.

Next after the University I think I may justly place the Royal Society of Sciences, under the presidency of his Excellency the truly patriotic Count BERNSTORFF, assisted by CHRISTIAN FRIDERICK JACOBI, Counsellor of Conferences, as perpetual Secretary. The society consists, as most other societies do, of honorary Members and Fellows. Among the former we find Princes, Ministers of State, and men whose names will encrease in splendor, with the encrease of centuries, and become adored in the same proportion as their public spirit and discoveries gain the attention of posterity, which they deserve. Thus our Sir JOSEPH BANKS; the Swiss CHARLES BONNET; D'ALEMBERT; and EULER, do honour to this learned body.

It is needless to recal to your memory, the important services, which this society has ren-

dered to the literary world. I know you possess the Travels of Captain NORDEN, in Egypt, and those published by Mr. NIEBUHR through Arabia, and other parts of Asia; and I am sure, you will agree with me, that a society, who protected these gentlemen, and promoted the publication of their researches, deserves no small encomium.

The activity, however, of the society is more conspicuous in their own transactions; of these twelve volumes in quarto, have already appeared, augmented with four other volumes of their new transactions. To which we may add a separate volume, containing interesting treatises, which have been written according to annual invitations, published by the society, and crowned with the proposed rewards: for you must know, that in order to diffuse a general emulation of cultivating sciences throughout the kingdom, nay, even abroad, various premiums are offered to those, who, not being members of the society, send in the most satis-

factory answers to their queries, relative to important matters, in various branches of Philosophy. In short, this society is framed upon the same principles, as the Royal Societies of London and Paris, and the fund by which it is supported, has been given by the King, its patron; for which reason literary talents are the sole guide to the honour of becoming a member of a society, whose door is shut to the golden key.

While the Royal Society is thus engaged in rewarding merit, and spreading knowledge throughout the kingdom, another society, patronized by his Majesty, is not less active in illustrating the Scandinavian History, and promoting the culture of the Danish language.

Since the death of LANGEBECK and LUXDORPH, the management of this society could not devolve into better hands, than those of Lord Chamberlain SUHM, whose love of the Northern history and antiquities, borders on enthusiasm, and has been happily displayed

throughout his History of Denmark, in thirteen volumes quarto.

The members of this society are, by their statutes limited to the number of six, besides a secretary; and their transactions, consisting of six volumes, quarto, under the title of the *Danish Magazine* contain such points of the Danish History, as required the most critical, and the most exact enquiry. Though I have already mentioned the ARNA-MAGNEAN COMMITTEE, incorporated by the King, on the 24th of September, 1772, yet as it is so near related to the last named society, both with respect to its object and internal regulation, I cannot help repeating it in this place, and adding to my former account, some circumstances which may enable you to form a more competent idea of the institution. You know, that whatever has been handed down to us with respect to the affairs of Scandinavia, from the days of Tacitus, to the fourteenth

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century, is recorded by the ancient Icelanders. These people having built their republic on the knowledge and experience of former ages, were anxious to improve their constitution, with the customs, laws, and manners of their neighbours, as far as these could be found applicable to their own; and in order to draw useful information from every quarter, they travelled abroad; studied in England, France, and Germany; served in the armies of foreign Princes; and extended their active trade even to the Mediterranean. He, who on his return home gave the most satisfactory account of his travels to the General Assembly, was sure of being noticed and preferred. This was the case with SNORRO STURLESON, the author of the History of Norway, and others, whose works are written with equal truth and elegance. These are the writings, which still abridge the long winter nights in Iceland; for no sooner is the short-lived day fled, than the whole family seat themselves down in a circle, and listen to the master, who,

from a chair in the centre, recites the valour of their ancestors. This custom being general throughout the island, the consumption of manuscripts must be great, and the transcription very frequent, a circumstance which renders the copies liable to alterations, omissions, &c. in the same degree as the writer is more or less exact. ARNAS MAGNUSON, a native, considered this, and conceived, that a collection of the whole (from which correct editions might in time succeed) would be the best method of guarding against those changes of the pen; he, therefore, set out on a tour through Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland, and brought together a great collection of manuscripts, consisting of History and Law, the greatest part on vellum; besides many thousand original Charters, all relating to the three Northern kingdoms.

The great care and unremitting perseverance, however, with which the patriotic Collector endeavoured to preserve these invaluable spoils of time, had nearly proved fatal to his favourite

design. The fire of Copenhagen, which happened in 1728, involved in one common ruin, the sanctuaries of the Muses, public as well as private; and the literary labours of centuries, fell a sacrifice to this accident: a circumstance which much enhanced the value of whatever escaped the mournful wreck. The public sustained a dreadful loss, which to compensate in every possible degree, was, undoubtedly, the duty of every good citizen. Under the impression of this exemplary idea, MAGNUSON, in 1732, bequeathed to the University of Copenhagen, the remainder of his library, consisting of 1761 volumes of manuscripts, and several thousand original charters, besides a considerable number of scarce and early printed books, and in order to guard the better in future against all unforeseen accidents, he gave four thousand pounds in money, the interest of which was to be applied in publishing these rare treasures of antiquity. The generous donor paid the debt of nature in a short time after, and, we are sorry

to say, that little was done till the justly celebrated Bishop PONTOPPIDAN was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University. His ardent zeal for the improvement of literature and diffusion of science in Denmark is well known. He directed the legacy to its proper object; but it was reserved for the late Privy Counsellor LUXBORFF, to carry the intent of the testator beyond the most sanguine wishes, that could have attended it. In 1772, this amiable Nobleman, Chamberlain SUM, and four other Gentlemen, were appointed trustees of the legacy; and at the same time, the King enjoined the strictest orders to begin the publication of the manuscripts, and continue till every one of them were brought to light.

The works already published, do honour to the first literary characters in Denmark, and may be looked on as the purest standard of refined taste, genius, and learning.

While the general History of the Northern Kingdoms was thus cherished and promoted, a rumour prevailed, that the lives of eminent

men, who, on this side the grave, had been the ornament of their country, were less regarded, than ought to be. The Court listened with pleasure to these remarks, and gave the most flattering countenance to the infant wishes of a private society, who, for their own amusement, had hitherto made Biography their study. Privy Counsellor O. HOEGB GULDBERG, the warmest friend of polite arts and literature, then at the head of state affairs, prevailed on Mr. OWE MALING to draw the moral characters of those Danes, Norwegians, Icelanders, and Holsteners, whose patriotism, and domestic virtues were found to be truly worthy of the emulation of posterity, and ought to be embalmed in tears of gratitude, and shine for ever in the page of History. The style in which this work is written, is not less remarkable for an accurate choice of words, than a delicacy of sentiment, almost peculiar to that writer, at once calculated to delight and improve. This publication is entitled, *The great and good actions of Danes, Norwegians, Icelanders, and Holsteners.* It has been

made a school book throughout the Danish dominions. The signal was now given, and a *Danish and Norwegian Society of Heraldry and Biography*, was instituted under the patronage of the King, who granted them free access to his archives, public paper offices, and records, without even the smallest fee, in order that they might peruse them. Since 1776 this learned body has published a *Biographical and Heraldical Dictionary of Denmark*, continued to the letter L. besides a *Magazine of Anecdotes*, each embellished with a great number of engravings.

The society for the encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, was incorporated by the King in 1769, on the principles, which distinguish those of London and Dublin. Mr. MARTIN HUBNER* made,

* The author of a book, entitled *De la Saisie des Batimens Neutres*, a la Haye, 1749, 2 tom. A work, which I am confidently assured gave birth to the armed neutrality, began by the late King of Prussia, and carried into execution by the Empress of Russia, with that success, which crowns the generality of her undertakings.

during his residence in England, the most minute enquiry into the constitution of the country. As a member of the London society, he had the best opportunity of gratifying his curiosity with every thing that related to Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, the objects of that highly respectable body. Fully convinced of the importance and necessity of such an establishment in his native country, on his return he spared no pains to accomplish a wish, that originated in the purest patriotism. Mr. MARTFELT at the very instant came to his aid. This gentleman had just arrived from Ireland, where he had travelled under the patronage of Mr. RYBERG, a merchant of Copenhagen, whose enterprising mind, benevolence, and love of country, transported far him beyond the limits of every selfish consideration. In short, the society was formed by these duumviri on a plan, laid down by themselves, in a moment, that would seem propi-

tious to national welfare: such is the success that has attended this institution.

The PRINCE ROYAL of Denmark is President of this Society, and has entered into the spirit of it with a zeal and activity, peculiar to himself: his example is followed by all classes. In the list of contributing members, the most exalted rank, character, and fortune, are emulous of appearing in that roll; and, that the diviner influence of beauty may not be wanting, we also meet with the names of several ladies in it. The method adopted by this enlightened body, of enlarging the bounds of knowledge, and promoting the common good, is divided between premiums for *theoretical* essays, and rewards for *practical* efforts attended with success. The essays crowned with the approbation of the Society, are printed, and distributed in every parish throughout the kingdom by means of the Rector, accompanied with a short account of the practical class, viz. that which has been gained, and that proposed for

the year next following. The premiums vary according to the choice of the successful candidate. A wealthy citizen receives a gold or silver medal, when a peasant generally prefers the sum of 20*l.* or the half thereof, in proportion to his merit. The premiums are distributed by the Royal President himself, accompanied by a short but pointed speech to the successful candidate ;—a circumstance which operates on the minds of men with the most powerful effect. To be known to the Heir Apparent of two kingdoms, is a wish which every body entertains ; to obtain it in a manner so honourable, must be highly gratifying. I myself have had frequent opportunities of witnessing, that the honour of being received and commended by the Prince, in his captivating manner, has far outweighed with the humble sons of CERES all the alluring gifts of PLUTUS. From this Society a great number of others have arisen : almost every county has one or more for the same purpose, regulated by simi-

lar laws. However, the quality of the premiums in some places differs: thus, in Norway, where BÆRENS ANCKER, the favourite son of the Graces, is at the head of his patriotic countrymen, the rewards of merit are medals worn on the breast, suspended by a ribbon; or a silver tankard, ornamented with a public inscription, holding to view the manner in which it was acquired, and which serves to excite posterity to emulation and virtue. Even Iceland has not been forgotten. This long neglected island, she that shone so bright in the annals of remoter times, once more under the auspices of two Princes, the son and brother of the King, begins to rear her drooping head. The *Society of Icelandic Literature*, established by a Royal charter, have already published nine volumes, replete with those subjects which are best calculated to improve the country people. The whole is written in the Icelandic, interwoven with several translations into that tongue, of the best publications in English, French,

German, and Danish; which are distributed gratis to the inhabitants at the expence of the Royal Family, and in part at that of the Society. Besides the laudable exertions of the Court to raise and cherish the arts to that sublimity to which they once attained, when WORMIUS, the BARTHOLINS, and BORCH, better known under the name of BORICHIUS, led the literary van, the Royal Family are anxious to collect whatever may grace and improve the nation. For this purpose, several gentlemen of known and approved talents are sent abroad at the public expence, some to Italy, some to France, others to Germany and Great Britain. Hence it is that these literary messengers have brought home with them those tender plants of Philosophy and Natural History, which already begin to adorn their native country. The many advantages which Great Britain derives from the cultivation of these studies, under the patronage of GEORGE the Third and the President of the Royal Society, could not fail to impress the

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minds of our philosophic travellers, who found almost every thing they were in pursuit of beneath the hospitable roof of Sir JOSEPH BANKS, whose doors are thrown open to every man of taste and science, and whose cabinet may be justly called the nursery of Natural History. On their return, I say, they resolved within themselves to found a society for the advancement of Natural History, united with Experimental Philosophy. Encouragement was held out from every quarter ; the Royal Family took the lead ; name seemed to vie with name, and talent with talent, to carry the plan into execution, which has succeeded beyond the warmest expectation. The lectures were given gratis, in the Prince's palace, in which an apartment is assigned for that purpose, and which, his Royal Highness says, is one of the noblest uses to which it can be devoted.

I am, for ever,

Your's.

LITERATURE OF DENMARK.
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LETTER III.

DEAR SIR,

I AM glad to find that I am able to interest you in whatever relates to Denmark: — but stay, let me see that I am not about to pay myself a compliment to which I am not entitled; for, when I survey what I have already addressed to you on the subject, I cannot ascribe it either to the order, reflection, nor yet to the elegance of language, which, you know, I never aspired to: it comes then to this—it is to the goodness of your own heart, that feels for all that concerns human kind. I plainly see, then, that you are afraid that the Danish lan-

guage and the imitative arts are left to the fate of younger brethern, and that no step as yet has been taken for the improvement of either the one or the other : in short, I think I hear you exclaim with PHILLIPS,

From frozen climes and endless tracks of snow,
From streams that northern winds forbid to flow,
What present can the Muse in Denmark bring,
Or how so near the pole attempt to sing ?

You will find, however, that the snowy bosom of Scandia, like that of your still fairer mistresses, is susceptible of the softest sensations, and that the meanest streamlet murmurs in eternal song. I know you have read in MONTESQUIEU, and the learned author of the *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Americains*, that as the climate of Scandinavia is naturally rough, so it must follow, that the genius of its inhabitants must of course be rigid, and incapable of those tender impressions, which render life not only desirable, but even delightful.

It most fortunately happens, that every one of your CLIMATISTS, if I may so call them, are mistaken in this point; and, that you may not merely trust to my assertion, give me leave to mention Sweden, where a GUSTAVUS, at the head of a society composed of ROSENSTEINS, SIÖBERGS, and OXENSTIERNAS, has improved and refined their language, I had almost said, beyond the purity of Grecian ore.

Let us turn to Iceland, enveloped in perpetual snow; yet for centuries it might be called the native soil of the bards, who mingled the flames of poetry and patriotism so happily together, that whoever bled in defence of their country, were sure to live in immortal verse: as a proof of this, you need only read *The Fatal Sisters*, so admirably translated by the British Pindar, GREY; and the *Death Song* of RAGNAR, published by JOHNSTONE, in which that illustrious warrior, like the swan, might be said to have sung his own elegy. In the first of these compositions, the imagery is well sup-

ported; and in the last, the fierce spirit of the warrior, at proper intervals, yields to the all-conquering power of gentle love. Others reasons must therefore be adduced in support of your assertion, that the Danish Language is impolished, and that you attribute it to the rigour of the climate. I would have offered an argument much more convincing.

The situation of Denmark is contiguous to Germany: her interest has therefore been to keep up a friendly intercourse, nay close connexion, with the Princes of that empire. Moreover the crown of Denmark has ever since 1448 been in the possession of German Princes, for the Dutchy of Oldenburg belongs to the holy empire. The consequences are obvious: the language, spoken at court, was the German; and the Danish, like that of England after the Conquest, was banished from all, that was great and noble, elegant and polite. Nevertheless this rather proves, that the language has been neglected, than incapable of improvements.

That defect can only be ascertained by a nearer, I had even said, the most intimate acquaintance. I am by no means vain enough to boast a competent judgment in this point, and if I did, you would evince the contrary, by telling the world, that the Danish was not my native tongue. However, give me leave to remind you of what you well know, that study and perseverance often produced what nature denies. At least I have made the Danish language nearly my own, I have studied its best authors, and come so far during the course of many years, as to be able to give a more satisfactory account of this country and its language than those, who never saw it, or saw it as mere birds of passage. Now to the point in question. What the Danish language has been in earliest times, I will not say. The Islandic monuments tell us, it was used in England, Norway, Sweden, the Western Isles, and a part of Ireland: and the learned JOHN ERICHSEN has fully enlarged on this subject, in an *Essay on the Danish*

Language, annexed to the *Life of Gunlaug Ormstunga*, Copenh. 1776. The oldest monument remaining is the so called *Jyd/ke low*, or Cymbric law, passed by WALDEMAR I. in the year 1242. Here the language is pure, highly soft, but precise and sententious. About this time SAXO wrote the *History of Denmark*: he filled the republic of letters with wonder and astonishment; but, alas! he wrote in Latin, by which means his readers are deprived of the perusal of the original documents in which you scarcely miss the numberless beauties which he has transferred into the translation. SAXO tells us, that he borrowed much from the national songs floating from time immemorial on the breath of tradition; many of these he has translated at full length, and that with great justice, if we may judge from what remains of these ballads in a collection of shattered fragments, under the title of PETER SYV's *Danske kæmpe viser*. In many of these you feel every degree of sentiment and passion, which the poet seems to have at his

controul, from the soft and soothing touches of ANACREON and CATULLUS, to the brazen clangour of TYRTÆUS: in one, you are conducted, as it were, with a filken clue, through all the windings of love, hope, expectation, disappointment, despair, and jealousy; and in the other,

The varying verse, and full resounding line,
The long majestic march, and energy divine,

kindle the soul of the warrior. Indeed the collection of ballads above mentioned is a convincing proof that the Danish language possesses in a high degree, what we call the pathetic and sublime. All that we have duly to lament, is, that no prosaic author is left from the middle age, if we except some Sacred Romances or Sermons, filled with legendary tales, in a book called the *Færtegns Postil*, i. e. *The Magazine of Miracles*; and a Chronicle, published in or about the beginning of the 16th century: from both of which no conclusion can be formed. And thus the history of the lan-

guage rests on mere conjecture till the year 1575, when a Danish translation of Saxo's History of Denmark was published by ANDREW SOFFRENSON WEDEL, with all the strength and colouring of the original. From the days of that gentleman the language has gained patrons and admirers; the importance of a beautiful style, through which the brilliancy of genius could be conveyed with undiminished lustre, regulated by a sober yet animated taste, like the powers of music, was no sooner felt than acknowledged. To accomplish this, a Philosophic Grammar and a General Dictionary were found necessary. This was a task of immense difficulty; the public could not produce it, because it was not likely they would immediately unite in one opinion, on a subject of which every man had a right to indulge his own. A single pen could not effect it, because it would be perpetually subject to mistakes, owing to the *casual eclipses of the human mind*, different advice of friends, &c. for, as yet, neither JOHNSON nor ADE-

LUNG had convinced the world of what might be expected from the unwearied exertions of one man, who, in the midst of *sickness, sorrow, and distraction*, warmed by the true *amor patriæ* for the improvement of his native tongue, lived to finish a work, the bare design of which would be thought sufficient by some.

A work was begun, however, by Mr. ROSTGAARD, who, in the common intercourse of life, and highest offices of the State, had the first opportunities of becoming an excellent judge of taste and polite literature. He was followed by the learned GRAM; but the superstructure was not equal to the foundation. To this writer LANGEBECK succeeded. In the mean time, the Royal Society of Sciences arose. It was thought adviseable to charge its members with the execution of a work, which was to fix the taste of two nations. It luckily happened that Baron HOLBERG was contemporary with ROSTGAARD and GRAM. The Baron, on his return from a literary tour of Europe,

settled at Copenhagen, with a view of refining the taste of his countrymen—and his success in that respect has been such, as to gain him the well-earned title of the Father of *Belles Lettres* in Denmark. His works are very numerous—scarce a branch of science, that is not indebted to him. Having studied SHAKESPEARE in England, MOLIERE in France, and ARIOSTO in Italy, he made himself master of every avenue to the human heart :—aided by the irresistible charms of Poetry, he courted Imagination, who may be said to have lent him her wand as often as he chose to borrow it ;—and, as he was convinced, that the impressions of theatrical representations have the liveliest effects, he called in the Stage to his aid. Previous to this time, a full house was preferred to a judicious one ; such pieces, therefore, were only exhibited, as tended to captivate the eye ; little regard was paid to the improvement of the mind ; the new-blown bubble of the day was all that was sought for. HØLBERG saw

this, lamented it, and determined to stem the torrent of prejudice : his endeavours were crowned with success—his plays became popular, approved by men of sense and wit, the GAY and OTWAY of the stage—a revolution at once took place in the taste and manners of the nation. Indeed it is not easy to point out what is most worthy of admiration in the writings of this author, even on the driest subject. His *Moral Sentiments*, which have been translated into English, are found to be as entertaining as his *Voyage under Ground* (being a satire on the university of which he was a member), and *The Voyage of PETER PAARS*, an epic poem in imitation of the *Odyssey*, in which the vulgar errors of Denmark, and the inhuman customs then prevalent amongst the insular inhabitants of Cattegat, are depicted with all the ingenuity of an ARETINE and a BUTLER.

HOLBERG paid the debt of nature ; and the fire, kindled by him on the altar of the Muses,

was fanned by CARSTENS*, HIELMSTIERNE†, and LUXDORPH. These triumviri, cemented by mutual esteem, genius, and talents, equally conspired in refining the true taste, and encouraging the literature of their country. BADEN‡, ERICHSEN§, JACOBI||, SCHLEGEL¶, and SNEDORPH**, had the honour of sharing with them those hours, which they snatched from the business of state : wit, and judgment went hand in hand, to render the conversation at once both pleasing and instructive. At this time too, the Danish language became an object of the Court. All men studied to ac-

* ADOLPH GOTTHARD CARSTENS, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Privy Counsellor and Director of the German Chancery, F. R. S.

† HENRY HIELMSTIERNE, Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, Privy Counsellor and President of the High Court.

‡ JACOB BADEN, Professor of Belles Lettres.

§ JOHN ERICHSEN, see above.

|| CHR. FR. JACOBI, see above.

¶ JOH. HENRY SCHLEGEL, late Professor of History.

** JENS SNEDORPH, late Professor of the Royal Academy at Soroe.

quire those graces which the Danish TRAJAN and his beloved LOUISA cherished; and every body hastened to meet that encouragement which his talents merited. The consequences were such as should be expected; a society of *Belles Lettres* sprung up in 1759, and premiums ever since have been publicly held out by them, in order to excite and reward talents. The first fruits of this illustrious body, was a *collection of Essays, on the rise and progress of Belles Lettres, and the Danish language*, rewarded with a premium, and published at Soroe in 1761---63. To this another collection has been added, under the title of *Essays on Belles Lettres and useful Science, by a Society*. Copenhagen, 1764---83, in 7 vols. 8vo. Thus, while some were allured by premiums, the love of praise called forth all the latent powers in others, and stimulated them to aspire to the most useful and honourable undertakings.

GULDBERG, impressed with the deepest sense of religion, published his *Letters on Matters of Important Truth; the Life and Conversation of an*

Unbeliever ; and at length his *Universal History*. The purity and elegance of his style, whether considered as a philosopher or historian, places him at the head of all his contemporaries.

SNEDORPH, Professor of Natural Laws, and the Laws of Nations, in the University of *Soroe*, wrote the *Patriotic Spectator*, in the chaste style of ADDISON. It is no wonder that virtue and public spirit, thus mingled and pourtrayed in all the beauties that language could supply, found a number of admirers and followers. Hence JACOBI's *Panegyric on the Archbishop ABSALON*, and *The Praise of CANUTE the Great*, by VOGELIUS. These two specimens of eloquence reflect no less honour on the inventive powers, than the good sense of their authors. SPORON and BADEN not only preserved, but refined the public taste, by the publication of their *Critical Reviews* and *Letters*. Here the art of combining severity with grace, and sweetness with grandeur, is most happily displayed. And if any thing was wanting, the Danish *Synonyms* by one,

and the *Grammar* by the other, prove that their language is susceptible of delicacy, sweetness, and strength, equal to its sister dialects, even the English not excepted. In short, good taste is now extended to every branch of science. The simple majesty of BASTHOLM's* writings afford a proper model for sacred oratory, while the sermons of Dr. L. SMITH†, and Dr. TRESHOW‡, flow through every inlet of the heart, like a gentle river with a pure unruffled surface, and, though plain, have an air of solemn grandeur, which produces the best effect. I have mentioned before, the love and zeal with which the noble SUMM cherishes the Northern Muses; and notwithstanding he is most partial to Antiquity and History, yet his works of

* CHRISTIAN BASTHOLM, D. D. Confessor of the Royal Family, &c.

† LAURENCE SMITH, D. D. Professor of Philosophy in the University of Copenhagen, Rector of the United Parishes of Friderichsberg, Hvidouere, &c.

‡ HERMAN TRESHOW, D. D. Professor of Divinity in the University, Rector of the Garrisons Church at Copenhagen.

Belles Lettres, as published in a collected body, amount to five octavo volumes. His History is pleasing, at the same time that it tells plain truth, without borrowing ornaments from poetry; but his *Tales* abound in clear and lively language, vivid imagination, poignant wit, and good natured humour.

Next after SUHM, I venture to name TYCHO ROTHE, a Poet and Historian, whose genius, assisted by classical learning, gives grace to composition, though formed on a plan not quite conformable to the most approved archetype. His works on the *State of Europe, before and under the Feudal Laws; the Effects of Christianity on the Europeans, and the subsequent Hierarchy*, are worthy a scholar and a statesman.

But after all, Poetry, so genial to the leading passions of the Danes and Norwegians in former ages, still maintains a decided superiority among the moderns; its charms have been, and are, the most powerful.

In the sacred Poetry, I know not which should bear away the palm: that of FRIEMAN,

LUND, or OLROG. Force, simplicity, and animation, are qualities which equally characterize their hymns, and inspire the soul with devotion, enliven hope, and strengthen faith.

JOHN EWALD, whose life may be said to have been the counterpart of SAVAGE's, enriched the world with Poems, and Plays, which discover the deepest knowledge of the human heart, and which, it is hoped, like those of the "Swan of Avon," will receive the reward of posterity. To EWALD, the Norwegians oppose TULLIN, whose *Day of May*, through the descriptive powers of his pencil, is dressed in all the charms of the Spring; every valley re-echoes to the murmurs of the cool breezes; every breeze, is a perfume; and every bush melts with music. The rest of this Poet's works are worthy of admiration; his sentiments are strong and well directed; it is he, that has the happy art of rising in sense, and sound at the same time; and his transpositions are so artfully modulated, that the ear is never sufficiently gratified. In a word, those rival bards, who are now attuning their

harps in elysium, are the champions of the two sister nations : their names are honoured in both, and each endeavours to excel the other in trimming their garlands with the fairest flowers.

In Denmark, the comic muse of BAGGESEN strewns the thorny paths of life with rose buds ; whilst FONTAINE and BOCCACCIO find a competitor in the fables of BRUN : and RABECK sings of Love and Wine in all the softness of CATULLUS and ANACREON ; yet in strains so chaste, that modesty herself might listen.

On the other hand, Norway boasts her EDWARD PRAM, the friend of RABECK, and his partner in a periodical work, the most elegant vehicle of useful and ornamental Literature, under the title of *Minerva*.

*Emilia's Kilde : or, the Fountain of Emilia**,

* EMILIA, Countess of SCHIMMELMAN. To her memory the Count has rendered, sacred, a fountain, bordering on the public road, leading from Copenhagen, along the Coast to Elsenore, where the sun-burnt traveller is served, gratis, with every convenience which alleviates his thirst, and gives him rest.

forms the basis of PRAM's reputation, a Poem worthy of that exalted character, whose praise it sings: I mean the Countess of SCHIMMELMAN, the late consort of the present Minister of State, a lady, whose virtues and cultivated understanding rendered her the brightest honour to her sex, and one of the principal ornaments of Denmark. The humanity and active benevolence which distinguished her great mind, is described by his Muse in the most pathetic language. His *Sterkodder*, an epic poem of a Norwegian hero, who lived in the golden age of ignorance and chivalry, abounds with elegant sentences and manly sentiments, now and then adorned with metaphors, which are bold as the mountains on which our bard was educated, and taught those sounding numbers, which rouse our sleeping faculties, and call forth the whole energies of our soul.

EDWARD STORM, likewise a Norwegian, has proved himself to be an author of exquisite taste, and such a writer, as seldom can satisfy

his own ideas of excellence, the higher he soars, the wider the horizon seems to expand. His *Original Fables and Tales* bear the stamp of this way of thinking; and his *Poem on the Indigenat*, established by law in Denmark, in the year 1776, is not less remarkable for poetical perfection, than the warm love, which the Northern nations bear to their native country.

I must not forget the fountains of polite literature, Latin and Greek, which flow at present through Denmark almost as pure as within their native banks. I could bring many proofs in support of this bold assertion, but shall content myself with a few:—witness FRIIS ROTBOLL, BADEN, THORLACIUS*, &c. whose writings in the Roman tongue, “stream with a Ciceronian purity.” THORLACIUS, as a poet, is possessed of an uncommon merit: in his imitation of HORACE he is second to none, and his *Ensebe*

* SCULE THEODORI THORLACIUS, Head-master of the Metropolitan School of Copenhagen, and F. R. S. and Honorary Member of the S. A. London.

Triumphans may be called the triumph of sense and sound indeed! The father of lyric poetry would not be ashamed to own it.

When Denmark is thus towering up to virtue and knowledge, the Theatre is not forgotten. The state of the sock and the buskin, may be called the true standard of the taste of a nation, and so sensible is the public of this truth, that every step has been taken to maintain that national honour, which had been established by Baron HOLBERG, in this line. For this purpose the management of the theatre has been entrusted to the care of HANS WILLIAM WARNSTED, a Lord of his Danish Majesty's Bedchamber, and GODSKE ROSENSTAND, Auditor-General of the War Office, two gentlemen whose refined judgment and unrivalled perseverance in eliciting the sparks of genius, merit the highest praise, and to whom the Danish stage owes its present lustre.

The narrow limits of a letter will not permit me to expatiate on a subject, which already fills

several volumes. I will therefore content myself with naming you the books, to which you may have recourse for information on this head. These are; *The Pocket Books for Theatrical Amateurs*, by Messrs RABECK and SCHWARZ, which may be looked on as an introduction to *The Danish Theatre*, containing the Plays which have been acted on the Danish stage, published in 1775—85, 11 vols; *New Original Plays*, 4 vols; and *Operas*, 7 vols. Among these, are many which would do honour to any house: and in order to shew you, that Melpomene and Thalia are equally courted, I shall beg leave to name the following:

The Heir Apparent of Sidon, by N. K. BREDAHL.

The Lovely Husband; and *The Amourous Friend*, by Miss BIEHL.

The Step-mother, by WANDAHL.

The Harlequin Patriot; *The Batchelors*; *The Fishers*; *King Rolf Krake*; and *The Death of Balder*, by EWALD.

Einer Tambeskielver, a tragedy, by NORDAHL BRUN.

Love without Stockings, a tragic-comedy, by WESSEL.

Having said so much, or rather so little, of the Danish stage, it may be necessary to add a word or two on the actors and actresses, who have not courted the favour of the public in vain.

Mr. SCHWARTZ may be called the Proteus of the theatre; expressive features, harmonious voice, strong and articulate, equally skilled to draw the tear of sensibility or to diffuse smiles—the ease and politeness of his manners, and the vivacity of his conversation, render him a welcome guest not only in the public, but even the private circles of fashion and conviviality. Mr. SCHWARTZ is allowed to be the first male singer on the Danish stage; his musical talents are universally admired; and to all these accomplishments he has added that of dancing in an eminent degree.

Mr. ROSSING has sacrificed to the graces, who seem to direct not only his gesticulation but expression, which is remarkably animated. The symmetry of his person has enabled him to carry those excellencies to an extent that captivates the most indifferent spectator.

Mr. KEMP has acquired a reputation in low comedy, which can scarcely be exceeded; wit and humour are qualities, which he possesses in a very high degree, and give him a decided rank among the best players.

Mr. PREISLER is an actor of great humour and gradually advances to the perfection of his profession in low comedy, which already has crowned him with great eclat.

Mrs. ROSSING—the talents of this lady in tragedy and comedy are of the first rate; the mellowed gravity of her countenance, the dignity and variety of her voice are peculiarly adapted to both, and her judgment of delivering the sense of the author, and dressing characters with propriety cannot easily be ex-

ceeded. The power of finging is the only gift which is denied by Nature, to this amiable and accomplished female.

Mr. GELSTRUP has every thing that can recommend a comedian: a handsome figure, a lofty voice, tempered with variety and judgment, heightens, if possible, his graceful manner. His Lady, Mrs. GELSTRUP, is a first rate actress in the sportive walks of comedy: the features of her face, the freedom of her laugh, and, above all, the unborrowed ease of her deportment, conspires to render her a great favourite.

Mrs. BERTELSEN, better known by her maiden name MULLER, is now what Mrs. CRAWFORD was some twenty years ago—in person, voice, and action, in comedy and tragedy.

The School for Scandal, which of itself is sufficient to immortalize the author, is the touch-stone (as acted at Drury-lane) by which we are enabled to form an idea of the stage in

Denmark. Suffice it to say, that SHERIDAN himself would acknowledge that his wit and humour have not evaporated in the hands of the translator Mr. TORUP.

Having mentioned this translator, I cannot help observing, that the modern Danes are emulous to imitate the attic simplicity and elegant plainness of style which distinguish the *Drapier's Letters*, and the easy flow of some of the best papers in the *Spectator*. On this account, the preference is given to English literature next to the *Attic Bee*, and other of the ancient classics. Hence the great variety of English writers appear to no small advantage in the Danish tongue, in almost every branch of science. Many of these have fallen into very able hands, such as LODDES, LUXDORPHS, WEDEL JARLSBERGS, THURAS, SCHONHEYDERS, &c. In fine, the English language is studied with the utmost avidity. As a proof, I have added a list of such English works, as have been translated either in the whole or in part within those last few years, at the end of the next letter.

Where so much attention has been paid to the cultivation of the languages, you may reasonably conclude, that the arts, which embellish the most rational pursuits of the human mind, and add to the graces of conversation, are not neglected. Music which swells the soul to rage, and kindles the soft desire, refines in proportion as it elevates our nature. Dancing increases health, adds strength to the body, and elegance to motion. For these reasons, both are studied as sciences in Denmark; the first in the music school, under the care of Professor LEM, who has made it his study from his infancy. His execution particularly on the violin is universally admired by the amateurs of that art—in short, he has the same ear in music that POPE had in poetry. Mr. SCHALTZ (leader of the band) is well known as a first rate composer. The royal dancing school is distinguished by Mrs. LORENZEN, and the inventive powers of Mr. BARK, the ballet master.

The many clubs or societies, which of late have been established at Copenhagen, may be

considered as so many nurseries of polite conversation, and elegant manners.

The MILITARY CLUB, in particular, founded by the Royal Heir apparent, has introduced by their law, the culture of every science, which tends to the accomplishment of a soldier, and to unite with their professional roughness, the combined charms of the muses and the graces. The concerts and balls, which they give at certain intervals, do honour to the society, and prove, that the arts of peace, instead of abating bravery, or throwing a damp on courage, serves much more to encrease its worth, and placing it in a clearer light.

In my next I will give you a short account of the Royal Academy.—In the mean time,

I am, &c.

P

LETTER IV.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING taken a slight survey of the literary state of Denmark, in order to preserve the appearance of method, I come now to consider her relative to the polite arts. The information, which is all that I aim at, may, perhaps, compensate for the manner in which it is conveyed. The Danish kings have always gloried in protecting and encouraging even the most feeble efforts of genius. The reformation, begun by LUTHER, enabled them to indulge those passions, which may be called the true ornament of Princes. Nevertheless the success, in the

course of centuries, did not keep pace with the generous design: wars abroad, and a tottering constitution at home, rendered almost every effort, if not ineffectual, at least weak. We must, however, guard against a leading opinion in southern climes, that the Goths or Scandinavians are savages, inimical, as it were, from the moment of their birth, to whatever softens or refines human nature. Experience plainly proves, that the expansion of the freeborn does not, like a plant, depend on time or place: the progress may be slow, but in the end it will attain to maturity. This has been the case with Denmark. Its Princes have been anxious for ages to make the arts an object of national attention. Thus FREDERICK II. drew artists and handicrafts from every quarter of Europe, and left Crownburgh and Fredericksburgh as a standard even at this day of taste and magnificence. This Monarch was succeeded by CHRISTIAN IV. whose love of painting, architecture, and statuary, can only be compared to his courage

and magnanimity, which perhaps are unequalled. Not satisfied with having reared the palaces of Rosenburgh and Jægersburgh, he built the town of Christania, in Norway ; Christianshavn, contiguous to Copenhagen ; Christianstad, Christiansprieis, Christianopel, and Gluckstad, in his German provinces. The Observatory of Copenhagen, called the Round Tower from its form, is truly unique in its structure and does honour to its builder. On a spiral staircase without steps you may drive in a chaise and two from the bottom to the top, and down again with ease and safety. As to his taste for painting and sculpture, the pictures of CARL VAN MANDEREN, a Flemish artist, whom he invited to Denmark ; and the sepulchral monuments, sacred to the memory of his predecessors CHRISTIAN III. and FREDERIC II. in the cathedral of Roskild, are the most ample proofs. FREDERICK IV. a Prince endowed by nature with an uncommonly good sense, took the method of going abroad, in order to enrich his

ideas with every thing, which by way of comparison, he might find applicable to his own. It was impossible for him to travel through Italy without catching the sacred fire of refined taste. Unfortunately the flame of war arose soon after. But the treaty, signed at Fredensburgh in 1719, put at length an end to that rancour and inveterate hatred so usual between rival nations in close neighbourhood, and which of course had proved the fatal source of misfortune, the most direful both to Denmark and Sweden for more than six centuries. The peace secured to Denmark the comforts of society; deprived FREDERICK of every emulation but that of making a flourishing people, and left him the only road to pursue, which could gain him the esteem and admiration of posterity. In short, the remainder of this King's reign was prosperous; the national spirit was roused; refinement of taste and manners became at once the fashion; arts begun to flourish, and Copenhagen became the seat of polite arts. On the spot

where the peace had been concluded, a house was erected called Fredensburgh (the *house of peace*), and another was reared on a hill near the capital. In both places art and nature have united the powers of their sublime though simple majesty. From this time the long drawn aile and fretted roof, the pointed arch and narrow windows, which shed the melancholy twilight, gave way to the spacious hall, the platform enriched with the historical pencil, the circular arch, and windows at once calculated to fill the room with air and light.

CHRISTIAN VI. at his accession to the throne, felt what he owed to his father. Under the specious pretext of building a palace, the residence of himself and his successors, the best artists of every denomination were invited from abroad, and Christiansburgh raised its head in a pile of building, where the best Greek and Roman archetypes were faithfully adhered to. One caught the fire from another, which was fanned with mutual emulation; and classical works

were composed, which you may see in DIDERICH THURA'S *Vitruvius Danicus*, Copenhagen, 1742—48, 2 vols. in folio.

The encouragement hitherto given to the fine arts might be said to be casual, as resting on no certain basis. It was reserved for FREDERICK V. to form a permanent establishment, where genius was once to meet with encouragement, rewards, and honours. This monarch no sooner mounted the throne, than he shewed how anxious he was to improve and embellish his capital; an undertaking in which he was heartily joined by his loyal subjects. Copenhagen by this means was enriched with the addition of a new quarter called Frederickstad, which, in point of architecture, extent, and, I may venture to add, situation, cannot even be equalled by Portland Place. In the centre of this magnificent range is the statue of FREDERICK himself on horse back, erected at the expense of the East India Company as a monu-

ment of their gratitude, and his exalted worth.

ADDISON justly observes, that

“ Art reflects image upon art.”

It was now found necessary, that a succession of artists and workmen in the different branches should be had at all times, who were possessed of real taste, in order to execute the designs, which had been laid down as well for the public as the private works intended for the embellishment of the metropolis. Denmark has at all times produced men endowed with superior talents, when called forth by proper encouragement. It is but justice to say that Mr. SALLY, as a sculptor, is deemed little inferior if not equal, by the best judges, to the first masters in that art. This gentleman spared neither pains nor expence to raise a generation of native artists at the instance he was taking the surest steps to eternize the memory of his royal patron. Hence it was, that a plan of an academy was formed, which, on the 31st of March, 1754, was honoured with

a charter from the King, and at once infused to Denmark a number of subjects capable of producing the happiest inventions.

This institution was sacred to painting, architecture, and sculpture. The first statutes were, in the course of time, found inadequate, and new regulations were added, by the founder, in 1758; and afterwards by his son CHRISTIAN VII. on the 21st of June, 1771. But in order to form some idea of the Academy, it will perhaps meet your approbation, if I give a short description of it. The Academy is composed of a President named by the King.—At present this illustrious office is filled by His Royal Highness Prince FREDERICK, brother to His Majesty: secondly, a Director chosen from among the professors themselves. The present Director is NICOLAS ABILDGAARD, whose object seems to be, that every pencil should equal the heaven directed touches of his own, which are universally admired. When you were at Rome, you spoke highly of his idea

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and expression of beauty and symmetry. I wish you had an opportunity of seeing his works, which, at present, adorn the Grand Saloon of the Knights in the palace of Christiansburgh, you would then acknowledge, that his light and shade upon the whole is midway betwixt the twilight of CARACHE, and the sunshine of TITIAN. The colours seem to have flowed of themselves beneath his pencil, and to have known where to kindle into life, or where to die in shade. In short, his fort is beauty and simplicity. He uses his pencil instead of crayon, and endeavours to combine all the excellencies of the schools of Florence, Rome, and Venice. His mode of colouring discovers a general air of grandeur at first view; the distinct colours however are most happily displayed in many of his paintings, particularly in that of CHRISTIAN IV. in a sea-fight. The transitions are so sudden and so natural, that they describe, beyond the power of the pen, the horror of an obstinate battle, in

which the royal sailor is seen bleeding at every vein, regardless of his own safety and calling forth by words and example every spark of patriotism and courage in the brave tars. Every man, that fell, seemed to bequeath his strength and prowess to his fellows, from the encrease of their exertions, which at length ended in one of the compleatest victories, that ever graced the naval annals of Denmark.

The rest of the academical senate consists of nine Professors and a Secretary. The Academy is divided into five schools or classes: viz. the Model-School, and the schools of Architecture, Perspective, Anatomy, History and Mythology*.

* The Professors of these schools are the following:

Of the Model School.

JOHN WIEDEWELT, first Sculptor to the King.

JOHN MARTIN PREISLER, first Engraver to the King.

ANDREW WEIDENHAUPT, Sculptor to the King.

NICOLAS ABILDGAARD, first Painter to the King.

CHARLES FREDERIC STANLEY, Sculptor to the King.

JENS JUEL, Painter to the King.

The School of Architecture.

CASPAR FREDERIC HARSBORFF, first Architect to the King.

The School of Perspective.

PETER MEYN, Architect to the King.

The Model School is directed by six Professors, besides three Teachers. To this class, however, two inferior schools are subordinate : in one the students are strictly enjoined to copy drawings ; and in the other they draw from nature. Their drawings must resemble the model, both with respect to its form and beauty : and when they are at length sufficiently familiarized with what constitutes the essential perfection of science, they are left to follow their own genius—to display their talents, and choice of masters and materials. In a word, elegance of design, novelty of design and beauty of finishing are the united objects at which the student aims. To accomplish this, all the aid of zeal and protection is given ; for the young persons who, upon application made by themselves, have been admitted to the Aca-

The School of Anatomy.

ANDREW WEIDENHAUPT.

The School of History and Mythology.

ABRAHAM KALL, Professor of History in the University.

Secretary.

CORNELIUS HÖYER, Professor, and Painter to the King.

demy, receive instruction gratis every day from five till seven o'clock, Sundays excepted. Both the Professors and the Teachers must attend in order to guide their pupils in their performance, to point out to them the surest road to excellence, and to lead them as it were to the temple of taste and fame. The Academy besides is furnished with an excellent library, and a great collection of ancient and modern drawings.

Wise as the regulations are which relate to the education of young artists, the measures are not less so, which are employed for the purpose of exciting emulation among them. The King has granted to each of the three arts, viz. Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, two silver medals, of different prices, to be adjudged every three months to those who have made, during that time, the greatest progress in drawing and modeling after the patterns laid before them, or to those who make the best composition on a subject of Architecture. Besides the Academy distributes two golden medals, a greater and a

leffer, every second year, to each class of scholars, who have applied themselves most successfully to Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, and Engraving. To attain these prizes, the pupils are obliged, in the beginning of February, to compose, in the art to which they are devoted, a sketch of a subject, which is given them by the Academy *in corpore*. After these sketches have been received by the students, they execute their designs at large in separate apartments, so constructed, as to prevent a mutual intercourse during the time of trial, or to admit any foreign assistance.

In order to enable a genius of superior skill and talents to arrive at a settled excellence, the King has set a fund aside for those who, in their respective classes, gain the greater golden medal; when this has been distributed, as the well earned reward of merit, the student has a right to go abroad at the expence of the public, as it is supposed that his

Highborn soul

Disdains to rest her heav'n aspiring wing
Beneath its native quarry : tired of home,
And scenes the same, she flies abroad
Through fields of imagination.

The usual mart they hurry to is Dusseldorff, Bologna, Rome, and Florence. Here they are ordered to study the genuine works of masters, whose works the taste of centuries has dared to pronounce to be divine, perfect, and immortal. The artists pursue their travels in general at the expence of the public for the course of six years, which, if well spent, on their return is crowned by their reception as members of this respectable body, a step ; which is the surest road to the chair.

Admittance into this Academy is an honour worthy of ambition ; it is therefore authorized to receive foreign associates, and honourary members of other Academies. But that it may be a real honour and always retain its value, it is expressly ordered, that an associate cannot be admit-

ted but by the merit of his works. For this reason a specimen of the Candidate, whether a native or foreigner, must be laid before the senate, which being found worthy of the solicited reward, is carefully preserved and publicly exhibited in the apartments of the Academy. Here are even some productions of the most exalted persons. Thus a spectator views with great pleasure the works of the KING of SWEDEN, and the DUKE of GLOUCESTER. Among the rest, the paintings in water colours of Mrs. BAERENS are most conspicuous. This lady was the first female that received the honour of being elected a member. The excellence of her pencil consists in the most perfect and vivid expression of nature; and she possesses the power of animating, as it were, and dignifying the figures of birds, insects, flowers, &c. In every branch of Natural History, her taste is as delicate as the texture of the unfun'd lily, and as pure as the dew that bespangles it. The royal family and the Empress of Russia have rewarded

her merit. The King of Denmark (as I am told) has settled a liberal pension on her; and CATHARINA has honoured her with several presents worthy a crowned head*. Mr. CLEMENS, the celebrated engraver, has the pleasure of beholding his wife's name as the second of the fair sex on the same list.

All the members of the Academy, of whatever order, are duly elected by a majority of votes. Such of the Professors as had no pension have obtained it by the King's generosity. The seminary, according to its institution, assembles every first and last Monday in the month; and every third month there is a general assembly, to which all the members are particularly invited, but they can only give a deliberative vote in affairs of great consequence: in all other cases the Professors, honorary Members, and Counsellors, have the right of suffrage alone, and the resolutions of the Assembly are kept in their records.

* Mrs BÆRENS is at present in London.

The royal palace of Charlottsburgh is the chief seat of polite arts. Many of its rooms are assigned to the students of the Academy. In other of its apartments distinguished artists have obtained a pleasant retreat. This illustrious institution has often received additional lustre from that particular patronage and affectionate regard which the Prince Royal bestows on it. And his frequent visits are attended with the most salutary effects; what he approves at one visit, is excelled in the next; his very look may be said to kindle all around him; so anxious are the students to render themselves worthy his estimation.

On the 31st of March, the anniversary of the royal founder is celebrated by distributing publicly the prizes, which have been previously adjudged to successful and enterprising genius. On those occasions, the royal President, assisted by the Professors and the academic Members, distributes the premiums in the presence of the public, after which he signs the diplomas for

new members. In the course of a few days, the public is gratuitously admitted to view an exhibition, which is intended to enlarge the boundaries of taste, and to place the talents of young men in a point of view, in which they may be seen to every advantage.

If the preceding letters have in any degree satisfied your curiosity, it is not improbable, but I may venture to add a sketch of the literary state of Norway, Iceland, and the Germanic Provinces belonging to Denmark.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

Note to page 10.

See a Danish publication entitled, *Observations on a petition laid before His Royal Highness the Heir Apparent by some of the landed interest in Jutland, complaining of their property being violated through the medium of the late Edicts, which emancipate the Peasantry from feudal Bondage, and ascertain their Rights and Duties. Sacred to enlightened Philanthropy, Civil Liberty, and the Danish Nation*, by CHRISTIAN COLBIORSEN, Deputy of the Danish Chancery, Attorney general to the King, &c. Copenhagen, 1790. The present work, in point of style and sentiments, does equal honour to the name of COLBIORSEN, the deliverer of Norway from the all-desolating spirit of CHARLES XII. And we learn from it, that a committee was appointed in 1787 for the purpose of attending the Judges on their circuits in order to enquire judicially into the state of the peasantry, and to concert with the landed interest the best means for ascertaining the mutual rights and duties of them and their tenants. The report of this committee and the Judges was laid before the King, and served as the basis of all those regulations, which have been framed since that period for the honour and happiness of society.

Note to Page 12.

The new regulations, which of late have been adopted by the Danish government for the welfare of Iceland and Finmark, are amply described in two publications under the title of *The Icelandic Commercial Magazine*; and *The Commercial Magazine of Finmark*: by CHARLES PONTOPPIDAN, Counsellor of State, Member R. S. Isl. and the Society of Arts Manuf. and Commerce, and honorary Member S. A. London and Edinb. Works which abound with deep researches, manly sentiments, and the warmest philanthropy, so congenial to the PONTOPPIDAN family. Fortunate it is for these two countries to find an advocate in this author, who, in order to do good, underwent all the hardships consequent on the trade to Iceland, and ascended by slow degrees to that exalted station, with which he at present is invested as Director of the Icelandic and Finmarkic Trade and Commerce; a station which enables him to draw information from the purest fountains.

APPENDIX.

DEAR SIR,

I AM very sensible of the weight of your observations, relative to the faint outlines, which I sent you of the character of His Royal Highness the Prince of Denmark; it is barren of anecdotes, but that is my fault, and I shall endeavour to repair it by transmitting such as may place his inclinations, pursuits, and talents, in every point of view in which you wish to ascertain them. If I am not able to gratify you in every respect, I hope at least to remove those fears which you seem to entertain, that at some future period the Prince may be deceived

by the unsuspecting goodness of his own heart ; that artful men may study his passions, and conceal their own under the guise of patriotism, and active benevolence ; and in the end divert from those god-like pursuits, in which he promises to persevere : pursuits sacred to the love of truth, his father, and his country. In short, I plainly see that you fear the Prince may wish for a power which may neither become the son nor the citizen ; and, encircled by flatterers, miss the opportunity, which peace presents, of making the nation happy. It is but too well known that it is the fate of Princes to be duped and rendered the mere tools of the pliant courtier. The Danes, however, are not apprehensive of any such thing. The generous purposes, which have been early planted in his glowing breast, will, I trust, never be eradicated nor choked by any weeds. In the first place, he never presumes to decide on any matter without the consent of his father, and he has often said, that he would consider that person

as his enemy who solicited a favour from himself; for, in so doing, he did not see, but that the most favourable construction, that could possibly be put on such a solicitation, would amount to a disrespect to the King. He takes particular care to watch over the conduct of those, who are about his Majesty, in order to mark the respect and affection with which they perform their duty; as the slightest disrespect shewn to the King by his political or domestic servants, never escapes the resentment of his son: in this respect attention never fails to be rewarded — one step of honour succeeds to another. On the other hand, the flatterer is sure to ruin himself in the opinion of his Highness. The downright honest man, having once gained the Prince's affections, may with safety oppose his naked breast to the shafts of malevolence and envy. His Excellency Marshal BULOW is a proof of this, amongst many others. This nobleman has been, as I have already observed, the constant friend and com-

panion of the Heir Apparent; he is the only one of his attendants who has passed the ordeal. The Prince, conscious of his merit, gave him a proof of the senſe which he entertained of it, in a manner that reflected honour on a heart, capable of the moſt refined impreſſions of friendſhip. On the 14th of Auguſt laſt his Royal Highneſs was pleaſed to reward the long and faithful ſervice of the Marſhal with a *Souvenir*, leſs precious for the diamonds which ornamented it, than the teſtimony, which encircled it in theſe words, *Souvenir d'Amitié et d'Eſtime*, ſet in brilliants, on one ſide, and the royal portrait on the other; accompanied by a ring with the Prince's cypher, likewise ſet in diamonds. It is not in the line of nobility alone that the Prince is anxious to reward merit; to him it is the ſame in rags or in brocade, equally bright in the one as in the other. When he was in Arendal, in Norway, he no ſooner heard of a ſailor being preſent, who had ſhared the danger of many victories under the late THORDENSKIOLD,

the Danish RODNEY; than he beckoned to the old tar to approach him, and made him sit down, and drank in with pleasure "the round unvarnished tale of his gallant deeds" which he had shared with the Admiral, his *father* *. Great as the Prince's satisfaction was in listening to the unrivalled bravery of men, who had fought the haven of peace, his surprize was equal on finding that the historian upwards of ninety had received no pension from Government, but for some years past had earned his little pittance with the sweat of his brow; in vain did the veteran say, that in fighting for his king and country he only discharged his duty, and that he never thought himself entitled to become a burthen to the public. The Prince, though he approved of such rare and disinterested sentiments, immediately ordered him an annuity

* The Norwegians call the King, and every person for whom they entertain a high degree of veneration, their father. In saluting the King, they say, "*My Father, God blefs thee.*"

out of his own purse during the remainder of his life.

It is not public services alone that the Prince is watchful to reward; motives of true benevolence, philanthropy, and private worth, equally feel his munificence. When Captain Dawson of London, at the risk of his life, in a violent tempest, snatched the crew of a Danish merchantman from the jaws of death at Riga, the Prince bore the generous tidings immediately to his father, and presented the Captain as worthy of wearing the golden medal, inscribed *pro meritis*, on his humane breast; which was immediately ordered*.

His Highness's bounty is not confined to Denmark in cases of distress. I suppose you don't forget his conduct in the untoward landing of a Russian frigate on the coast of Sweden in 1788. The Russians poured forth their vengeance on

* This medal was struck on purpose to be conferred as the reward only of conspicuous merit, and it is held in Denmark to be the highest mark of royal favour.

the defenceless villagers of Raa, burnt their houses, and deprived them of their all. As soon as the Prince heard of the affair, he set a subscription on foot at the Danish Court for the relief of the poor Swedes. The same benevolence led him to Sweden for the purpose of maintaining justice and order.

A long time previous to this he had shewn himself firm in the design of supporting the Danish empire, without attempting to enlarge its bounds; and he convinced all Europe, that the power of Denmark, raised above the temptation of conquest, was actuated only by the love of order and justice. "My father," said his Royal Highness to a great personage, who flattered him with the resumption of a province, which formerly belonged to the Danish crown, "has already too many territories of uncultivated soil; till the hand of industry reclaim those, and until the rest of my father's possessions undergo such improvement, as they may be capable of, I venture

to say, that he will never think of extending the limits of his empire."

As the restorer of peace in Scandinavia, the Prince marched into Sweden with his troops, it is true; but the Swedes were as well satisfied with the magnanimity of his Royal Highness, the Hessian Commander in Chief, and the brave Norwegians, as Europe has been with the Danes, on account of the sacred adherence they have ever evinced to their words and treaties. In the observance of treaties he considers his word as sacred; this principle with him outweighs every consideration, and therefore is himself as little at liberty to renounce the stipulation Denmark was under to Russia, as he conceived it becoming to avenge the war on an innocent and brave people, undertaken by their Sovereign against the ally of his country: in short, the Prince went to Sweden and left Sweden, admired and adored in the same degree by friends and enemies; by the latter, for that exemplary order

which prevailed among his forces; and by the former, for his attention to the faith of treaties. Actuated by these motives, Denmark did not recal her arms till the object of that campaign had been gained, and a mutual neutrality of the interfering powers secured to her ally.

From the foregoing you will easily perceive that the young Prince unites the talents of a foldier and a statesman; he gratifies his favourite wishes in the discharge of his duty, regardless of difference of season or climate; he has travelled on horseback, on foot, and in an open landau, over the rugged mountains of Norway and the plains of Denmark; scarce a part of the two kingdoms that he has not enlivened with his presence. The advantages which the public have derived from his travels, and the local knowledge which he has accumulated at every stage, are numerous; his first care has been to provide for the safety of his beloved country, against every foreign attack; his maxim is, that the best way of pre-

serving peace is when constantly prepared for the exigences of war, and to be as little disposed to receive as to offer insult.

He soon discovered, however, that it was impossible to secure the permanent basis of his plan without restoring public virtue, the ancient simplicity of manners, and the oppressed majesty of the laws; to carry this noble but arduous design into execution, he resolved in the first place, as I have noticed in my first letter, to effect the emancipation of the peasantry from feudal slavery and bondage. Conscious that the sovereign may use his power, but that the estimation of a free people alone can maintain his authority, he prevailed on his royal father to submit his whole plan to the judgment and decree of the public; a committee was appointed for that purpose, who were to accompany the Judges on their circuits, in order that both parties, viz. the lords of the manors and their tenants, might be examined in their presence. The report of the Judges and the committee has been pub-

lished, and the approbation with which it has been received by the people is the surest test of its merit. The remonstrances which have been preferred against both are numerous, after the minute examination of the whole an edict was issued which restores the peasants to that long lost liberty which once contributed so much to the glory of the state, but which had been usurped on one side and neglected on the other: added to this, a number of grievances under which the peasantry laboured were abolished. Thus it was ordered that the lord deliver the farm to the tenant, with a written inventory, made out in the presence of the tenant, and a certain number of intelligent and disinterested men in the neighbourhood, for the purpose of cutting off any future claim to things, which had not been delivered or found in a state of decay at the time of delivery. It was likewise ordered, that before the lord should distrain for rents, fines, &c. that he should lay his claim before a court of justice, where the tenant might have an oppor-

tunity of putting in an answer, and that of course the heirs of the tenant should, after his decease, enjoy in like manner the protection of the law, and not be spoiled of his property by a wanton conduct, as had been the case. It had been customary for the lords on the slightest occasions, without any judicial enquiry, to condemn the tenants to corporal punishment in the pillory, on the wooden horse*, &c. This was tyranny indeed, and as such raised the most just abhorrence. The peasants, like the tenants† in some parts of North Britain, had been deprived of the liberty of selling their goods and cattle in a free market; every thing went through the hands of an *honest*

* A machine in form of a horse: the person mounted on its pointed back suffered in proportion to the weight which was appended to his feet. It is a wonder that this implement of torture, so disgraceful to humanity, should maintain its existence in open defiance of the law, which, for more than a century ago, declared torture to be infamous, banished every species of it from the courts of justice, and made all private violence criminal.

† See John Knox's Tour through the Highlands of Scotland in 1786, p. 192.

steward: this liberty was restored, and in order to protect the peasant in future, it was ordained, that the peasant should dispose of his cattle to whomsoever and wheresoever he pleased; the officers of excise were ordered to shew them every indulgence. But perhaps no act of benevolence has ever been subject to a greater obloquy than the emancipation of the Danish peasantry, the restoration of their rights and the regulation of their duty; and never perhaps did prejudice appear in a more horrid form than on that occasion. A class of men*, whose situation in life ought to have placed them beyond the reach of all selfish motives, accused the Prince of having involved the kingdom in one common ruin: by giving the peasants ideas of liberty; they said, the order of society was destroyed, and they thought it their duty to remonstrate publicly with his Royal Highness: they wished for the opportunity, which at length presented itself. His nup-

* Some of the landed gentry of Jutland.

tials with the Princess of Hesse Cassel, authorised the landed interest to send a deputation to wait on his highness to congratulate the royal pair on that happy occasion, a petition was annexed to the congratulation, which accused the Prince of having invaded the privileges of individuals, and sown the seeds of destruction, by advising his father to dissolve the feudal system : and what was still more extraordinary, they prayed that those monsters of society, who had aided the King and the Prince by their counsel in bringing about this change, should be removed from the presence of the one and the other. The Prince having listened to their remonstrance, replied : “ Gentlemen, it is true ; I think the peasants entitled to their liberty ; under that impression, I have been instrumental, as far as my advice contributed, to the emancipation of that useful but oppressed body ; I have assisted in ascertaining their rights and duties ; I have stepped no farther : whatever has been done, is the result of a mutual agree-

ment between you and a committee appointed for that purpose: the report, according to our constitution, has been laid before the King by the Danish Chancery; they are the keepers of his Majesty's conscience, and to them you must apply in case you think yourselves injured."

The Prince soon found that it would be impossible to give stability to the benevolent schemes he had formed, unless prejudice could be dissipated by the beams of reason. To wage open war with inveterate ignorance, would only serve to strengthen her authority. In order to strike at the root at once of popular vice, he embraced the system of establishing public schools throughout the kingdom, where the youth of every parish are reciprocally taught the rights and duties of men; the nicest sense of honour and virtue are implanted and cherished in their tender hearts, and watched over with the utmost attention till they shoot forth to maturity.

A prince, whose only aim was to render his

fellow subjects happy, could not behold with indifference the next object that solicited his attention. The country was over-run with beggars ; this hydra was observed to increase time after time, in proportion as the hand of Industry, the daughter of Virtue and the mother of National Honour, sunk into her lap. To prevent these fatal circumstances in future, the Prince obtained a committee on the 19th of October 1787, for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the poor throughout the kingdom. The committee was charged with the following instructions :

1. To make exact returns of the number of the poor in every parish, specifying the age of each, the state of their health, ability of body, and the support they received from the parish.
2. To make out exact accounts of the income and expenditure of the poor rates for the two preceding years.
3. To make the most minute enquiry into the mode of educating poor children, and to

devise the best means of training them up in the various branches of useful trade, at the least possible expence to the public.

4. To ascertain the best plan of providing the means of employment for those who might be able to gain their bread without begging, and to render the aged and infirm useful in proportion to their circumstances.

5. To enquire how far each parish is able to maintain its own poor.

6. To suggest the best mode of abolishing beggary, and restoring industry.

7. To frame a plan which may prevent the vagrancy of beggars from one parish to another.

8. To make an exact return of all the work-houses, hospitals, and poor-houses, in each parish, distinguishing their income and expenditure.

In the course of the last three years the committee have been indefatigable in the investigation of those particulars, and the nurse-

ries of industry and information already established are the best proofs of the salutary effects of these suggestions and pursuits. Many individuals, animated by a similar spirit with their Prince, voluntarily assist in forwarding an undertaking the progress of which has already diffused a ray of cheerfulness over the countenance of want and dejection*.

The Corn Laws presented themselves next.

* According to *The present State of the Poor in Denmark*, by I. H. BAERENS, Secretary to the Committee, appointed to investigate the Defects of the Poor Laws (Copenhagen, 1790), we see that out of 682,934 persons, of whom the population of Denmark consists (Norway, Sleswick, and Holstein excluded), 37,615 are paupers, viz. 3983 cripples, 2150 bed-ridden, 9939 aged and imbecil, 3872 orphans, and 3248 other children. For the maintenance of these, ways and means have been found out; the children have obtained a safe retreat in schools instituted for that purpose; and work-houses are set on foot in every county, where each individual is rendered useful to the public in proportion to his state of health and strength; the rest are kept in hospitals. Thus is beggary at length exiled in Denmark, and effectually prevented, by instructing children at school, employing the able to work, and providing the sick and infirm with the necessary comforts.

This subject is of the last importance. In Denmark, indeed, the order of things had been hitherto inverted; the landed interest had been consulted only; famine reigned in the midst of plenty, and plenty in the midst of famine, just as they chose; Norway was strictly forbade to buy her grain in any market out of Denmark; agriculture and manufactures equally felt the baneful effect of this arbitrary system; a bad and scanty commodity could be sold at any price to a people groaning under the worst species of monopoly. Under those circumstances, I will not wound your tender heart with a picture of the distress which reigned in Norway when the sister kingdom did not furnish the long-looked-for supply.

To root up this evil at once, was an undertaking not less benevolent than it was arduous and enterprising, as it was surrounded on every side with difficulties and dangers. The Prince was of opinion that liberty only would be found sufficient to produce the desirable effect;

through that medium, said he, aided by prudence and wisdom, the exports and imports of grain will find their level, emulation will improve agriculture, corn of a better quality will fill the market, and the labouring class will be paid a price in which caprice has no share. The nation at large was invited to discuss the subject; the Prince, seconded in his opinion by the voice of the public, obtained laws, which, by the wisest regulations of imports and exports, inspire agriculture and manufactures with new life; the dread approach of famine is defeated by magazines; and by this means Norway is emancipated from a monopoly, which, whilst it ruined one kingdom, is now found to have been disadvantageous to the other. But this was not all, Norway still found more favour in the eye of the Prince; whilst he remained there he discovered several abuses committed by the servants of the crown against a brave and loyal people: on his return to Denmark he interceded with his father to es-

tablish a public fund, through the aid of which the injured individual in that country, whose circumstances would not admit of vexatious law-suits, would be enabled to drag those sacrilegious into a court of justice ; and thus by restoring the equal distribution of justice, he restored the strength, the splendour, nay the very soul of an expiring people.

The first principles which actuated his highness to break the numerous shackles which hitherto cramped and weighed down Ceres, prompted his comprehensive mind to enquire into the causes which had operated to the destruction of Iceland. Admitting that chartered bodies may be of public benefit when the object of their pursuits are placed beyond the limits of their own country ; he saw that it was equally unnatural and impolitic to permit any one part of society to become the innocent prey to the insolence and avarice of the other. In the first instance, wealth and power might be acquired ; and in the second, the state did not profit in

the least, nay it might even suffer, whilst a few individuals piled up ill-got wealth at the expence and ruin of some thousands enslaved. Under these considerations that monopoly, which had proved the bane of Iceland for some centuries, was rescinded; the benefit of a free trade and commerce was extended to every part of the two sister kingdoms, and new settlers were invested by a grant from the crown to take up their abode on the once populous shores of Iceland, which entitled them to privileges worthy the statesman and philosopher. Every article of these privileges breathes the true sentiments of honour and humanity; on one hand they assert the right of a citizen to enjoy equal advantages with another in the relative situations of office and honour, let his religious tenets be what they may; on the other hand, they hold out all corporate bodies, as the enemies of public good, and of course leave every man at liberty to pursue his trade and business under the protection of the law. As scarce any

thing however is without exception, so an imperfection of that nature has found its way into the law. Still those rich fountains of revenue in many countries have been excepted, and that for this trifling reason, that whilst they enrich the owner they corrupt and destroy the mind and body of the *amateurs* of the spirit, and that industry being destroyed the exchequer is left empty.

You, dear sir, whose genius and talents have acquired so many laurels by extending the excise, and spreading the gifts of the ruddy god through every part of Great Britain, will, perhaps, think His Royal Highness must neglect that, which is the chief finew of things, and leave to chance the doubtful finances of his country. Whatever may be your opinion of the Prince as a financier, give me leave to tell you, that his Highness for some months past, has employed several hours every day for the purpose of examining the present state of the finances, and the preliminary plan, which the lords

of the treasury had laid before him in order to encrease the public revenue without any additional burden on the public, and by which means it will be possible to obtain a surplus adequate to raise a fund sufficient to defray every extraordinary exigency. Among the regular expences a fund has been set apart to reduce the national debt. This fund is sacred, and can never be touched under any pretence whatever, but for its original end. Besides such sums as are requisite to pay the current interest of that debt, have their appropriated sums which cannot be converted to any other use.

A scheme being concerted for the reduction or realization of Danish bank notes, the King has resolved to resign the bank and its revenues, besides the securities or hypothesis given to him by the purchasers of crown lands and royal domains, and other claims of considerable value.

The sinking fund for paying the national debt amounts at present to 1,000,000 rixdollars, which however encreases in the same proportion

as annuities granted by the crown expire, so that in the course of eight or ten years, the income of this important fund will gain an addition of 500,000 rixdollars a year. In the execution of this salutary work, every step, guided with prudence, has been taken to secure a permanent basis of the public welfare. The late armament, and the sacred adherence of treaties with Russia, has thrown many difficulties in the way. However, the vigilance of the Prince Royal and his friends have enabled his Majesty to surmount every obstacle, and execute a plan which will supply the treasury with a new income, without new burthen to the people. Frugality, and a more congenial method of collecting the public revenue, are resources which benefit all and injure none; and so far is the new plan from proposing a new impost, that on the contrary it has given many hints, repealing some, and modifying others. Though every circumstance favourable to this scheme has been taken into consideration and fully dis-

cuffed, yet such resources have been solely brought in the balance, as directly, and without the least impediment, enrich the nation. All other objects, which are in a more distant view, and can be obtained only at a future period, are mentioned, but not carried to the account. The savings proposed, and which already have taken place in every department of the state, amounts to 12 per cent.

There have been times, when reforming financiers have turned hundreds of placemen out of office, without providing either a just or benevolent retreat to the aged, the poor, and faithful servant of the public; and it has frequently happened that savings have been carried too far, and proved fatal in the end. Therefore all such reductions have been purposely avoided, as could have the least tendency of injuring individuals, or diminishing the power and defence of the state. By rendering the administration of the public revenue more safe, and adding to the treasury the salaries of useless places, with which the court still abounds, as

they shall become vacant either by death or exchange, the mutual wishes of the king and the nation will gain their object.

Thus, notwithstanding various alterations have taken place, both in the army and the navy, in order to reduce their establishment; yet the regiments are at present as compleat as ever, and the wooden walls of Denmark have been put upon the most respectable footing; and a double object is gained, viz. that of reducing expences, and a more easy mode of recruiting the army and manning the navy. The reductions have fallen for the greatest part on the court, and the Prince Royal has made a considerable sacrifice of his own personal property, for the purpose of avoiding new taxes laid on the nation. Satisfied with supporting dignity with decency, and shewing the world that virtue is placed at an equal distance between the opposite vices, he resigns to the public the heavy expence of pageantry, the only worth of corrupted courts.

Through this medium a sum of 475,000 rixdollars will be annually saved. It is moreover resolved, that the present taxes and duties shall be modified, reduced, and repealed, in proportion to the success of the new plan, and when the income exceeds the expenditure. The salaries of the servants of the crown will be augmented, and made adequate to their relative situation, service, and duties; and in time of peace no new expences will be suffered to take place, but what may easily be defrayed from the annual surplus.

If I have dwelt too long on this subject, it is for the purpose of impressing you with this truth, that the summit of the Prince's glory is to render himself worthy of the affection of his father and the love of his fellow citizens.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Your's.

PRIVILEGES

GRANTED TO THE NEW SETTLERS IN ICELAND.

1. EVERY man, of whatever persuasion, has liberty to settle here ; and, under the protection of the law of the country, worship God in his own way.

2. The new settlers shall, in the course of twenty years, be exempted from all taxes whatsoever, except those agreed on for the benefit of their towns.

3. The land necessary to build upon, as well as for grazing near the towns, shall be bought at the expence of his Majesty ; and after being

divided and surveyed, to be given gratis to the inhabitants, who from Norway and Denmark shall have liberty to order building materials free from duty; besides which, they can hope some other supply, according to their circumstances.

4. The surveyor shall, without any expence, allot the ground to each settler; and take care that every one may be conveniently served.

5. The new settler shall receive the certificate of his being sworn a citizen before a magistrate gratis; and his name shall be enrolled in the town house.

6. The new citizen shall be exempted from the use of stamped paper.

7. Foreigners who settle in the new towns, and their children, as well those brought along with the parents, as those born afterwards, shall enjoy the same rights and privileges which the natives possess.

8. A new settler shall have liberty to go abroad with his property, free from all decima-

tions ; and no respect shall be had to his settlement, whether of long or short standing.

9. Every citizen shall be at liberty to exercise what trade he pleases, distillery only excepted ; for stills are absolutely prohibited ; and publicans shall take license from the hands of a justice of peace.

10. A citizen, of whatever persuasion he be, can buy landed estates in Iceland, and of what extent he pleases.

11. Tradesmen useful for the country, may hope to be encouraged by his Majesty, through the medium of the Board of Commerce and Manufactures.

12. Apprentices who have served in Iceland, and learned their business sufficiently, shall, both in Denmark and Norway, have the same privileges as the Danish apprentices.

13. No trade shall be exercised in Iceland under the sanction of a charter or corporation ; for every citizen is entitled to the liberty of using the trade which he has learned.

14. A citizen shall have liberty to send his merchandize into the country, and to whatever place he pleases, and to give orders to whatever town he may think fit, within the King's dominions in Europe.

15. Merchants who are citizens of the new towns, shall have exclusive privileges of importing to the markets of Iceland foreign articles and commodities, in the same manner as every citizen is at liberty to bring to market his own manufacture. Captains coming from abroad with ships, shall not be obliged to unload at a place where they find no market, but have liberty to go to any other, without paying any duty, where they may lie four weeks, and sell to every one, without distinction, their cargo, wholesale and retail.

16. The law of Exchange shall be the same in Iceland as it is in Norway.

17. The administration of justice shall be in the hands of a justice of the peace, till the town can get its own magistracy, which will be

appointed as soon as the sheriff makes application for that purpose.

18. Appeals shall be made to the circuits, and from thence to the last instance. In cases concerning commerce, an extraordinary tribunal shall be appointed, where suits may be tried in a more summary way.

19. The citizens shall have right to petition and receive a coat of arms according to their own pleasure, as soon as they are invested with the administration of justice.



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Biekuben, i.e. *The Beehive, or, The Thoughts of Others;*
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ERRATA.

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51	20	nature	naturæ
60	6	pleasant. Eastern	pleasant, Eastern
72	18	far him	him far
90	22	conversation	conversion
120	10	after the King of Sweden,	add the Dukes of
		BADEN DURLACK.	

